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AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1995, RABI' ALTHA-NI 22, 1416

# King: Jordan's policy towards Iraq is consistent

Jordan and its people care for Iraq and its people and are committed to helping alleviate their suffering Calls for pinpointing root problem ahead of dialogue cannot be interference in Iraq's internal affairs Those who accuse Jordan of interference have a record of interference by themselves while Jordan does not

# HM cites Haiti as an example where last-minute political dialogue averted bloodshed and violence

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday dismissed contentions that be was now pursing a new poli-cy vis-a-vis Iraq and stressed that Jordan has been consistent io its support of the unity. and sovereignty of that country and the well-being of its

people.
"There bas been much talk and many contentions, whether in the media or by politicians, both professionals and amateurish," that Jor-dan has changed its policies on Iraq, the King told oewspaper editors at the Royal

Bot go back to what 1 have been saying (over the past few years) and you will see that we have not shifted. or changed from the policy we pursued," he added. Our emphasis has consistently been on preserving Iraq (as a country), help its people with transferring medicine and food shipments to it and work towards lifting the sanctions against them."

"There bas been talk about public opinion being heavily in support of Iraq," the King said. "I have more trust in public opinion than anybody else and am characteristically pleased about (Jordanians') feebngs for Iraqis since I have played a major role in ral-lying people and in directing them towards supporting Iraq during the challenges and the battles they had faced. I still do not know on what grounds those who say there has been a change in policy base their theories," be added, "We have accepted what happened in 1958 and respected the wish of Iraqis. We stood by Iraq ever since, despite the fact that we were not consulted on major decisions and actions by the Iraqi leaders, such as the invasion (in 1990) of Kuwait. We have offered Iraq what we could to the extent that (Baghdad) oow owes us \$1.1 billion, to the dismay of our creditors.



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday addresses Jordanian newspaper editors at a meeting held at the Royal Court attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, the King's advisers and top officials (Petra photo)

we have to look for an We are still getting oil supalternative source in case plies from Iraq, even though there is a surprise move like

that of 1958. We bave not thought for one moment of closing the border. And I

bave stressed once and again that I have no ambitions in

What has changed now in as far as the situation in Iraq is concerned, the King said, is being threatened, whether from external or internal sources. "The picture that we have received about the internal situation is in no way satisfactory. On the other hand outside pressures are

continuing," he said.
"What I have been trying to do, therefore, is to give advice and counsel as well as stress the need for reconciliation among Iraq's three religions and ethnic groups (Sunnis, Shiites and Knrds), the need for respect of political pluralism and democracy and for the Iraqis to enjoy their legitimate rights and to get rid of fear.'

"The question that I ask myself," the King went on to. 'is whether we bave indeed carried out our duty towards rescuing Iraq."
"We, here in Jordan, have

our National Charter under which we enjoy democracy, pluralism and human rights." His Majesty said. "Now, do we accept those valoes for ourselves and not for the others? Should not we wish

the same (progress) for our brothers in Iraq and the Arab

"Should not we have empathy for our Iraqi brethren who could for ever lose their unity without achieving reconciliation. democracy and pluralism? Do we commit a crime by talking about such reconciliation, especially when the alternative could be a bloodbath? Is it our duty to keep silent about what is happening inside Iraq? Do we accept double standards or strive to have a clear conscience in so far as the plight of the Iraqis is concerned? Should not a person, according to our religion, caution his brother when the latter is in trouble and edging towards the pre-

cipice? King Hussein indirectly criticised Arab countries who questioned his decision to grant asylum to General Hussein Kamel, saying Jordan had always been a safe haven for free Arabs who sought

(Continued on page 7)

# Jolt in Iraq-Jordan ties is over

CAIRO (AFP) — Relations between Iraq and Jordan strained by the defection of former Iraq in the defection of Iraq in I tions of two Iraqi officials last month are oo the road to recovery, Iraqi Finance Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayyar said in remarks published Saturday.

taken." "These relations are now

io a period of convalesc-ence," be told Saturday's ly Al Ahram.

countries" were implicated

The Iraqi minister admit-

The sanctions, imposed Council earlier this month.

Mr. Khodayyar pledged Iraq would pay all the com-

# Serbs tardy in moving guns;

SARAJEVO (Agencies) -Bosnian Serbs moved a few heavy weapons away from Sarajevo on Saturday, but not enough to satisfy the United Nations, which warned of new airstrikes if more guns are not moved.

Under a deal secured after two weeks of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) airstrikes, the Serbs agreed Thursday to pull back their beavy artillery from around the capital, winning a tbree-day reprieve from alliance bombs.

Low-flying NATO reconnaissance planes, apparently taking infrared aerial photographs to monitor any weapons movement, droned over the Bosnian capital.

But they did not seem to have any significant movement to monitor. The United Nations said Saturday that the Serbs bad moved only three tanks, five mortars and four artillery pieces by late morning from the 20kilometre weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo.

"We remain sceptical about the Bosnian Serb commitment to honour to the full the undertaking they have made to remove weapons threatening Sarajevo," said U.N. spokesman Chris Gun-"The movements we have seen are small scale, and much more is still to be achieved.'

Mr. Gunness said an assessment would be made Sunday night on "whether adequate progress has been achieved or whether airstrikes should be resumed."

The U.S. diplomat who brokered the heavy weapons agreement, Richard Holbrooke, said the United States would urge immediate resumption of NATO bombing if the Serbs did not fully comply with the artillery pullout.

Mr. Holbrooke, an assistant secretary of state, was in the Serbian capital Belgrade on Saturday for more talks with the regional powerbroker, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

unhappy with the U.S.-Serb agreement because it indudes only very large-calibre weapons - mortars bigger than 82 millimetres and arrillery bigger than 100mm. Pre-

viously, the United Nations and NATO had insisted on withdrawal of all guns over

The Serbs also agreed to reopen Sarajevo airport to U.N. and bumanitarian flights after five months and to give U.N. and relief agencies access to two roads connecting the city to the outside

Defence Minister Charles Millon of France was aboard the first plane to land Friday afternoon. The first U.S. air force plane bringing aid arrived without problems Saturday. Land routes were

elsewhere, firing two surfaceto-air missiles Friday at NATO reconnaissance plane near the eastern government enclave of Gorazde. The NATO plane was not hit and the alliance, clearly concerned about keeping Mr. Holbrooke's peace plan on

government and its Croat and the Serbs, who now have about two-thirds of the terri-

William Perry said during a visit to Rome: "It might be a couple of months but if this process stays on track, I believe we will have a peace agreement this year."

But resumption of the twoweek bombiog campaign

territory during the last

"They sleep outside and during the day are exposed to the hot desert sun." said Mr. Mumtziz, who just visited the region near the Egyptian border post of Salloum to assess conditions.

"Over half these Palestithe West and Russia to test NATO's resolve to bomb nians are children who are suffering from lack of food and water and health services."

"The health of a threemonth-old baby and a 15vear-old girl deteriorated on Friday but a doctor called by Salloum officials saved them at the last minute." Mr. Mumtziz said.

CAIRO (Agencies) - The

United Nations High Com-

missioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) has warned of the

dangers to the lives of some

100 Palestinians camped on

the Egypt-Libya border for

over two weeks after being

cide very soon to send

emergency humanitarian aid

to 32 Palestinian families

nisking death in no-man's

land between Egypt and

Libva." Panayotis Mumtziz,

a UNHCR foreign relations

officer, told AFP.

The UNHCR should de-

thrown out by Triroli.

He also pointed to the "bad psychological state" of the families, who "are willing

Cairo refused entry to the Palestinians, deported by Tripoli in early September, because they had no Israeli

to continue their university studies. Mr. Mumtziz said.

Qadhafi launched a campaign to eject Palestinians in a bid to send a wave of refugees to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to show up the "failure" of the self-rule accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation

But reports from the border say that mass expulsions of Palestinians have been halted since Thursday.

Meanwhile, Sudan has sent an evoy 10 Libya to arrange the return of thousands of

have already crossed the border in recent weeks after making a grueling 2.750kilometre journey from Libya, much of it through desert terrain. Sudanese officials say another 2.000 Sudanese families are waiting

to\_return. Sudan sent Tajudeen Al Hadi, a state minister for expairiate affairs, to Libya to belp arrange their departure. the government newspaper. Al Sudan Al Hadith, reported Saturday.

It did not say when he left or how long he would stay. Sudanese officials told the newspaper that "groups of Sudanese returnees" were stranded inside Libya near the border. About 2,000 families have registered their names with the Sudanese embassy in Tripoli for a return trip, they said.

Libya began throwing out Egyptian and Sudanese workers in August, most of them because they lacked proper papers.

# and done with - Iraqi minister

The defection of Hussein Kamel gave Jordanian-Iraqi relations a major jolt which has now been over-

edition of the Egyptian dai-Baghdad did not have

"any hard and fast information" that "neighbouring dayyar said alluding to Jordan which has given him asylum. But he "had certainly

coordinated with several parties" his flight from Iraq on Aug. 8 along with his brother and their wives, both daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, he added. King Hussein criticised

the Iraqi government after the defections in a nationwide address in which be said bis eyes bad been opened to the reality of what was happening in Baghdad.

the five-year-old U.N. oil and trade embargo, after Lieotenant-General Kamel revealed Bagbdad had planned to invade Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at the end of August.

when Iraq invaded Kuwait io August 1990, were renewed by the Security

pensation demanded following the 1991 Gulf war. but called on countries wanting such payments to "first call for a lifting of the embargo.'

# Israel, PLO in intense push to seal agreement

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat were meeting in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba on Saturday in an all-out drive to strike a deal on extending

The two men hoped to initial a deal on spreading self-rule across the West Bank by Sunday in time for a signing ceremony in Washington next Thursday. Mr. Arafai iravelled to

Alexandria on Egypt's Mediterranean coast ahead of the talks to meet President Hosni Mubark and Foreign Minister Amr Musa. But the venue of his meeting with Mr. Peres was not

announced until the last mi-Control of the late of the lat nute by officials on either The talks will take place in Taba. That's definite." man a service of the Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Daniel Shek said

late Saturday, finally clearing The state of the s up the confusion. Mr. Peres had said he and the second s "preferred" the talks to take place in Taha, just across the border from the Israeli resort of Eilat where teams of negotiations are working flat out to try to resolve the remain-

and the state of t ing problems, The Palestinians had wanted the meeting in the capital Cairo.

Mr. Peres said he had a new plan to resolve the deadlock over Hebron when he meets Mr. Arafat, but declined to give details.

"Hebron is the most complex place including the population make-up and no less than this is the tension that exists between the two populations," Mr. Peres told Israel army radio.

Hebron, a traditional flashpoint for Arab-Jewish violence, is the only Palestinian city with Jewish settlers living in its centre.

Some 400 Jews live surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians in the heart of the city. Mr. Peres refused to divulge details of his latest proposals concerning Hebron but he said the Palestinians "have no idea what we will be

Israel has said it must keep troops in part of Hebron to protect the settlers. The PLO insists troops leave all but the heart of the city where special temporary arrangements could be made to protect the

A statement issued by Mr. Arafat's Fateh faction warned against signing an accord without finding a solution to Hebron and the other vexed issue of the release of Palestinians held in Israeli

"Fateh does not see a possibility to implement any

without finding a solution to these two issnes," the state-

ment said. Israel is still holding some 5,000 Palestinians in jail. although earlier this month Israel said it would free two groups of Palestinian prisoners after an accord was

signed. Officials on both sides say they hope to sign the self-rule extension at the White House next Thursday.

But many target dates have come and gone even though under the original peace deal Israeli troops were to have begun moving out of "populated areas" in the West Bank 16 months ago. An Israeli official said it

would be a "catastrophe" if Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres failed to clinch an agreement in Taba. "Time is working in the favour of opponents to the peace process, in Israel as

well as in the territories," he

told reporters. If the deal is not signed next week, further talks will have to be put off until mid-October because of a series of Jewish holidays beginning with new year celebrations.

Mr. Peres spoke confidently of striking a deal, saying there are just a few issues left in the negotiations."

(Continued on page 7)



world.

also operating smoothly. But the rebels were defiant

track, did not retaliate. The U.S. peace initiative gives the Muslim-led Bosnian allies 51 per cent of Bosnia,

tory, 49 per cent. U.S. Defence Secretary

He was confident enough to cancel a plan to send Stealth fighters to Italy in readiness for use against the

would again strain relations between the Western allies and Russia. U.N. sources were concerned that the Serbs might be using the tensions between

them again. Bosnian government forces claimed fresh gains in an offensive with their Croat allies in central and northwest Bosnia which has mop-The Bosnian government is ped up more than 2,000 square kilometres of Serb

> Sarajevo Radio said gov-(Continued on page 7)

death at border - UNHCR to take any nationality to

Bosnian Serb refugees with horse and cart and all their belongings en

**Expelled Palestinians risk** 

route to Banja Luka in central Bosnia. (AFP photo)

permit to enter the Gaza Strip after transiting Egypt. Another 5 Palestinians were also camped out between the borders after Libya refused to allow them reentry

Salloum officials decided on Friday to increase the humanitarian aid given to the stranded families, the Egyptian news agency MENA re-

Libyan leader Muammar (PLO).

Sudanese workers. Hundreds of Sudanese

So far, thousands have left. including about 800 Sudanese. More than one million foreigners from African and Arab countries are believed working in Libya.

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**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

Grachev favours military ties with Israel

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Friday that military cooperation with Israel

would be beneficial to both countries. Interfax news agency reported. Israeli Prime Minister and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who had talks with Mr. Grachev Thursday

during a one-day visit to Moscow, said at the time that

"cooperatinn in some military areas had not been ruled

out." According to Mr. Grachev, both countries wanted military-industrial cooperation, but talks to this effect could only be beld "on the instructions of the two

president or by government resolutions." Russian cooperation with Israel is either forbidden or restricted, Mr.

## Iraq Kurds fail to agree on how to implement accord

LONDON (Agencies) — Rival Iraqi Kurd factions meeting in Dublin failed to agree on implementing a peace accord because of differences nver sharing customs revenues, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said here Saturday.

The PUK and its rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) met in the Irish capitla since Tuesday to try and implement a U.S. and Turkish-backed peace accord reached in August in the Irish

town of Drogheda.
But PUK spnkesman Bahram Salah accused the KDP of reneging on the agreement which was due to be signed in Washington later this munth by PUK leader Jalal Talabani and his KDP counterpart Massoud Barza-

The main sticking-point was sharing nut customs levied by the KDP on Iraqi oil transported by truck tn Turkey through Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

The oil deliveries, which contravene a U.N. embargn in effect against Iraq since its August 1990 invasinn nf Kuwait, are the Kurds' main revenue, amounting to \$100,000-\$150,000 a day. They agreed last munth un

sharing the revenue. But Mr. Salah said the KDP gave nn commitment in Dublin tn share "the mnney that has been taken for the last Ig months nr so." The issue was "crucial" because -1,700 Iraqi Kurd families needed financial help.

At a time when we are knocking at the doors of in-. ternational aid agencies and governments for help, it is a very sad irony that such re-sources would be denied to the very penple that need it

be said. The KDP did not comment un the statements. But the twn sides pledged in Drogheda in abide by a ceasefire in a bid to end fighting in nurthern Iraq be-

tween the factions that has left more than 2,000 people dead since May 1994. "I desperately hope it will hold," Mr. Salah said. "We raised the question at the (Duhlin) meeting: How much time can we hold in a situa-

tion of half-peace, half-war." He was more upbeat on another aspect of the Drngheda agreement: the demilitarisation of PUK-held Erhil, the main town in Iraqi Kurdistan. "Considerable progress" was made, he said.

Retired General Colin

Powell, a little-known fi-

gure during the Iran-contra

scandal, writes in his auto-

biography that he took a

dim view of proposals to

ship arms to Iran, and was

furious that an independent

counsel later questioned his

veracity about the matter.

Gen. Powell, who is con-

sidering a presidential hid

as he lannches a book tour,

disputes the conclusion by

counsel Lawrence Walsh

tbat he was privy to "de-

tailed information" regard-

ing illegal U.S. arms ship-

"Dead wrong," Gen. Powell wrote in "My Amer-

Gen. Powell's chatty

memoir, released in book-

stores Friday, tells the story

ments to Iran in 1985.

ican Journey.

Erbil area," in response to KDP demands for the demilitarisation of the town seized hy its rivals in December, the spokesman said. Mr. Salah said no date was

set for another meeting, at which the U.S. State Department, Turkey and the Iraqi National Congress opposition coalitinn bave also been rep-

concessions by way of retak-ing out all its forces from the

The KDP moved forces to a mountainous area near Zakhn in northern Iraq to flush out Turkish Kurdish rebels based there, the Turkish state-controlled Anatolian news agency said on Satur-

About 3,000 KDP guards in the early morning sur-rounded the area where some 600 rebels from the Kurdisb Labour Party (PKK) were believed based, the agency

KDP spokesman Safeen Dizayee in Ankara told Reuters he could not confirm the operation, but said there had been plans in search for PKK rebels in that area.

The PKK, fighting far autonomy nr independence in southeast Turkey, started attacking KDP positions in nnrthern Iraq last mnnth just as the Iraqi Kurdish groups

began peace talks. Turkish Kurdish political analysts have suggested the PKK's attacks were spurred by fears any accord from the U.S.-sponsored talks in Dublin could force the closednwn of PKK bases in northern

Analysts say the PKK wants to set itself up as a third force in the region and send a warning to the Iraqi Kurds that unly an agreement that takes the PKK into consideration will be tolerated.

In Kulp, Turkey, security forces striking from land and air killed 51 PKK rebels in one of the biggest reported clashes in southeast Turkey this year, security officials said nn Friday.

Four government troops were also killed, they said. Ground forces backed by Super Cohra helicopters fir-ing rockets killed the PKK guerrillas in mountains in Kulp and a neighbouring district in fighting that began on Thursday, they said.

"We are still searching areas where the PKK might mander Colonel Mecit Korkut told reporters taken to the battle zone in Turkish "PUK made a series of army helicopters.

military career led him to

Washington's power corri-

dors. He was a high-ranking

Pentagon official, White

House national security

adviser, and eventually the

nation's bigbest military

As military assistant to

Caspar Weinberger, then



IRAQI PROTEST IN BEIJING: Iraqi delegates to the U.N. Fourth World Conference ou Women demonstrate inside the building of the conference demanding an end to the five-year-old international sanctions against their country. The protest came during the closing ceremony of the canference (AFP photo)

## **Euro-MP: No customs union** with Turkey without reforms

ISTANBUL (R) - A member of the European Parliament assessing Tur-key's readiness for planned custums uninn said on Saturday Ankara needed to strengthen democracy and respect for human rights to ensure the deal is approved by the European Parlia-

Carlos Carnero Gonzalez, who had three days of meetings with political leaders and special interest groups, said the Euro-MPs were specifically concerned about limits nn union rights, freedum of expressinn and the six pro-Kurdish MPs in jail.

"The customs uninn is not only an economic union and in this respect the European Union, when it enters into an agreement with a nation like Turkey, must stick to certain conditions," Mr. Carnero said at a news conference.
"The European Parlia-

ment wishes for the human rights situation to be improved and democracy should be improved," said Mr. Carnero.

The European Parliament will vote on the lucrative customs deal - set to go into effect at the start of 1996 - in December, and Mr. Carnero said democratic refirm would ensure a

Powell says he opposed Iran deal, blasts Walsh

majority of the 626 deputies would vote in favour

of the pact. The Euro-MPs wanted to see the deputies from the Democracy Party (DEP), closed by the court last year, released from prison, restrictions on freedom of expressinn and union rights eased and buman rights violatinns addressed, he

Turkey's appeals court will hear the case on Sept. 21 against the deputies imprisoned last December largely on the basis of speeches they made in favour of hroader Kurdish

Mr. Carnero added Ankara also needed to seriously address the Kurdisb question - rebels and the army are locked in an 11-year battle in the mainly Kurdish southeast - human rights violations like torture and the Cyprus prob-

Turkey has insisted the rebel war can only be put down militarily, while some political analysts say the war is fuelled by restric-tions on Kurdish political and cultural identity.

sympathy for the plight nf Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, whn has promised to ease restrictions on freedom of expressinn but faces apposition even within ber

own party.
But be reiterated the European Parliament needed to see serinus changes and signals and that the July amendments to Turkey's military-rule era constitution were not sufficient.

"Without important changes in the fields I bave mentioned... without a clear struggle against vinla-tinns of buman rights, without a new approach in the Kurdish and Cyprus prob-lems, it shall be difficult to have the necessary major-ity to say yes to the customs union." he said.

"The constitutional reforms of July are nnt ennugh, and much remains to be done in this area," he added, "There are still several elements in the Turkish constitution that limit freedom, notably concerning trade union rights.

Mr. Carneto has met with Turkish leaders, in-cluding President Suleyman Demirel and Prime nned Knrdish deputies and their lawyers, and is due to meet business leaders as

more sensitivity" on race

Bush campaign that focused

on Willie Horton, a black

Massachusetts inmate who

raped a white woman while

on a prison furlough, "was

a political cheap sbot,"

the incident racist? Of

course. Had it bothered

Mr. Reagan and Mr.

Busb themselves betrayed

not "the slightest trace of

Was the ad depicting

Gen. Powell said.

me? Certainly.

An ad used by the 1988

relations.

#### Cyprus division key theme for fesival

NICOSIA (AP) — Scores of children began painting a 50-metre-long mural depicting the division of this East Mediterranean island Satur-

day as a European cultural month got underway.

The Greek Cypriot children worked only a few yards metres from the barbed wire and fortifications of the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone that splits the capital into Greek and Turkish sec-

Nicosia and the rest of Cyprus have been divided since Turkey invaded and occupied the northern onethird of the island in July 1974 following a short-lived coup hy supporters of union with Greece

The Greek Cypriots are using the cultural festival to highlight the political status of Nicosia as the world's last divided capital and the 21-year-old Turkish occupation

of the north.

The festival has been boycotted by the breakaway, Turkish Cypriot state in the north, which is only recog-

"We revolt against the present division of Nicosia, against the current 'ethnic cleansing' solution which some have tried to establish here by force, cutting nff by means of walls and barbed wire thousands of men and women who have lived together in harmony for centuries," said Miguel Angel Martinez, president of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe.

"One has tn candemn those responsible for such a monstrosity, but above all we must act firmly to put an end to it," he declared at the opening ceremony Friday

night.
President Glafcos Clerides the Greek Cypriot leader, said the choice of Nicosia for the festival "is particularly significant... it makes us feel me'er being embraced by Europe."

He added that the festival will stress the common cultural beritage of Cyprus and Europe, which are based on respect for buman rights.

"Without the actual prevalence of these principles and values, our European civilisation and culture would be wortbless," Mr. Clerides

AIRPORT

#### Grachev said, adding that any military cooperation would "strongly depend on the Middle East situation." Man's head found on telephone pole

ASSIUT (R) - The severed head of a man killed by suspected Muslim militants has been found staked to a suspected Muslim militants has been found staked to a telephone pole at the entrance to a village in southern Egypt, security sources said on Saturday. Local residents told police that the bead of Kasdi Fahmi Abu Halaqa — a suspected police informer — was fixed to the pole by a metal bar. Halaqa was gunned down in the village of Abshadat, 260 kilometres south of Cairo, on Thursday. One of the gummen cut off the bead with a meat cleaver and it was found near the neighbouring village of Manshiet Al Maghalka, the sources said. Security sources said the gummen were suspected members of the Gamaa Al gunmen were suspected members of the Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), which has been fighting security forces in southern Egypt for over three years. More than 840 people have been killed in political violence in Egypt since the Gamaa launched its campaign to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state.

#### Algerian activist reported murdered

ALGIERS (AFP) — Suspected Islamic radicals have assassinated a leading human rights activist, Abdul Hafid Megdoud, newspapers reported Saturday. The dailies Le Matin and La Tribune reported that Megdoud, a trade union leader and member of the executive committee of the Algerian Human Rights League (LADDH), was shot and killed Wednesday as he was driving with bis wife and children in the Algiers suburb of Baraki. Megdoud bad already escaped twn assassination attempts by suspected radicals fighting to complet the secular military-backed radicals fighting to topple the secular, military-backed regime in Algiers. The newspapers said be was buried nn Friday. The newspapers published a statement by the LADDH condemning the "vile murder" in Megdnud.

#### Moroccans approve constitutional change

RABAT (R) - Moroccans voted almost unanimously in faynur of a constitutional amendment to change the date nn which the budget is passed, the government said on Saturday. The Ministry of Interior said 99.6 per cent of the g.2 millinn Mnroccans — about 70 per cent of registered voters — who vnted on Friday had approved the change. The amendment will allow parliament to vnte nn the budget in June rather than in October. King Hassan said when he called the referendum in August that this would prove the government to take account of the annual permit the government in take account of the annual harvest in May and make more realistic forecasts. Budget forecasts for 1995 were thrown off by a disastrous cereals harvest caused by severe drought.

#### PFLP-GC arms dump explodes in Shatilla

Palestinian group's ammunition depot in a Beirut refugee camp during the night, manufing seven people. police reported Saturday.

It was the latest in a series of explosions at bases operated by the Syrian-backed Popular front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in recent weeks. Police said they could not

determine what started the blaze in the group's arms depot in the Shatilla refugee camp at 11:45 p.m. (2045 GMT) Friday.

The depot was believed to have contained hundreds of mortar rounds and antiaircraft missiles, police said in a statement It said five of the casualties

were treated at a camp clinic for minor burns. Two others were hospitalised. It was not clear whether the casualties were guerrillas

or civilians. PFLP spokesmen dcclined comment on the explosions. But a guard at the depot said

the fire started when a gas cylinder exploded. Police officials said they could not say wbether the fire was an accident or possible sabotage similar to recent

mishaps at PFLP-GC bases in other parts of Lebanon. The latest was an Aug. 31 explosion at the group's main

BEIRUT (AP) — A fire set training camp in the Syrian-off a series of explosions in a controlled Bekaa Valley in

son Jihad, were wounded in the blast, which was reportedly caused when a bomb the men were handling detonated.

Two weeks earlier, three guerrillas were reported killed in an explosion at another popular front base.

The PFLP-GC opposes the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) selfrule accord. The group is allied with the Iranianbacked Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, or Party of God, in a guerrilla war against the Israelis in South Lebanon where they occupy a border

PFLP-GC bases in Lebanon, which is dominated by Syria, bave been a frequent target of Israeli air attacks since 1987.

Friday's explosion in Shati-In came on the anniversary of the 1982 camps' massacre in Lebanon.

It occurred near a cemetery for victims of the camps'

Saturday marked the 13th anniversary of the massacre by Christian militiamen of bundreds of civilians in the Sabra and Shatila camps during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

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Doha (GF)

#### of the son of Jamaican im-JORDAN TELEVISION

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	PROGRAMME TWO
	14:80 The Flinistanes
- 1	14:30 Joshua Jones
	14:45 The Mighty Jungle
	15:60 Pugwall Summer
	15:30
	Football match — UEFA Cham- pions League 1995/1996
	17:00
	Children's Programme Les

| Nondes Englouts | 17:30 | Serie — L'Instit | 19:00 F11 | News in French ...... Vshaia New Headlines .... Cinema. Cinema The Bold and the Beautiful ... .... . . . Starthhlair .. .. News in English .... Drama — Counterstrike .... Return to Eden (Ep.11) 00:30 . .. Keeping Up Appearance **PRAYER TIMES** 

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St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifleh, Tcl. 810740 dies of Gud Church, Tel. defence secretary, Gen. Powell wrote that he knew as early as June 1985 that National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane was proposing such sales in a bid to reach out to moderate Iranians in the volatile

He called the idea "audacious" and "foolhardy" and said Mr. Weinberger held a similar view.

"I did not know the shipments had actually been made until sometime in 1986," after President

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De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel

Anglican Church Tel. 63/851, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 77[75]. Amman International Church Tel.

Evangelical Latheran Church Tel: 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Cun-gregation Tel. 684195

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WEATHER

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erate to active. In Aquita, winds will be northerly active and seas

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 Ronald Reagan signed a secret order making the transfer retroactively legal, Gen. Powell wrote. He said he then arranged for the transfer of anti-tank missiles to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which sent them to Iran.

Mr. Walsh did not take any action against Gen. Powell, and his role has never been a major focus of media attention. But the Iran-contra issue.

along with other aspects of Gen. Powell's long military and government career, is bkely to come under increase scrutiny if the retired Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman gets into the presidential race. In previously released

book excerpts and interviews, Gen. Powell said he is considering a presidential bid, is dissatisfied with both political parties and he-

Jordan Vallet ......

Nairouth pharmacy ...... 625672

Dr. Ali Al Shogari ...... 246140

Najih oharmacy.

lieves the country may be ready for a third major pobtical party. But he has not said whether he would affiliate with a party if he does run. He wrote that he rebuf-

fed President Bill Clinton's offer to be secretary of state because of reservations about "the amorphnus way the administration handled foreign policy."
In the book, Gen. Powell

expresses pride at having been the first black person . to achieve some of those milestones, and said that when Mr. Reagan selected bim as national security adviser. "I also felt along with the pride a certain burden to prove myself as the first African-American

to hold the position."

And be wished two Republican presidents be served, Mr. Reagan and George Bush, had "shown

racial prejudice in their be-baviour, Gen. Powell wrote. They led a party, however, whose principal message to black Americans seemed to be: Lift yourself by your bootstraps. All did not have bootstraps: some did not have boots. I wish that Reagan and Bush bad shown more sensitivity on this point."

#### **JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR**

festerday's high temperatures:	<b>EMERGENCIES</b>
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#### Queen Alia Intl. Airport 48-53200 FOR THE TRAVELLE QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

ARRIVALS

ARRIVALS
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09:55 Lamaca (RJ)
10:00 Riyadh (RJ)
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10:30 Beirut (RJ)
10:50 Doha. Bahrain (RJ)
12:30
17:55 Brussek (RJ)
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19:15 Athens (RJ)
19:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
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#### Other Flights (Terminal 2) 11:30 ... 13:40 ..... Buhrain, Shariqah (GF)

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By Rana Hosseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three youths were killed Friday in three

separate drowning incidents in the King Abdullah and the

Ghor canals, police and Civil Defence Department

In the first incident a 7-

year-old child drowned

while swimming in King

Abdullah Canal in the Al

According to the reports,

eyewitnesses said that they

saw the victim, Mohammad

Akram Saghir, waving for

drowned in a similar swim-

ming incident in the same

canal on Friday. Official

reports identified the victim

In the Jordan Valley on

Friday, a 12-year-old child,

Ahmad Mustafa, was also

A13-year-old

as Adli Faleh Odeh.

Yabis Valley, reports said.

(CDD) reports said.

Drowning accidents kill 3 youths,

killed in a drowning inci-

dents, according to police

All three bodies were retrieved by CDD frogmen

and were taken to Mua'z Bin

Jabal, Abu Obeidah and the

Shouneh police are search-

ing for a hit-and-run driver

who on Friday struck and

killed a pedestrian, police

tion of the car or any wit-

nesses hut we hope to find the suspect soon," a police official told the Jordan

He added that the only evi-

dence was grey paint found

According to the police

official, the victim, Amin

Ahmad, 27, went into a

coma and died an hour after

Also on Friday, a 7-year-

on the victim's clothing.

arriving to the hospital.

We do not have a descrip-

Jordan Valley hospitals.

Meanwhile,

reports said.

Times.

road accidents claim 3 lives

SEPTEMBER 17, 1997

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Islamic radicals has its actived. Abdul Hat Saturday The dailes b that Megdoud, a take executive committee out (LADD))), was say driving with his wife at 1 part of the Meddoud Care of the Medd Baraki Megdoud by a accompas by suspect secular, military-back in said he was builde ed a statement by & murder" of Merdone itutional change

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MARKET PRICES

seven Swiss feature films and five documentaries. One of the films is the 1991 Oscar-winner for best foreign film directed by Xavier Kopller, "Journey of Hope, which recounts a true story of the illegal get of Israeli an affai immigration of a Turkish asc 1987 Friday to explanation in St. Laber Camber massign

embassy, in cooperation with Pro Helvetia Arts

Council of Switzerland, will

Switzerland.

Participants attend the opening of the "Pension 2000" investments group meeting being hosted in Amman. Organised by heads of pension funds in the U.S. and the Amman Financial Market, the meeting is one of other such periodic seminars held by Pension 2000 in countries which, to the U.S. group, show a high potential for investments and

which enjoy a business environment that ecourages local as well as foreign investments

First Swiss cultural week to include

Oscar-winning film, photography

The cultural week seeks to introduce the latest Swiss cinematographic productions of the nineties to audiences in Jordan, and all films are subtitled in Arabic. Exhibitions on display during that week include one entitled "Swiss Photographers from 1840 Until Today," which features 300 black and white shots taken

by 117 photographers from around the world. These photographs "are a

AMMAN (J.T) — For the couple and their young son pictorial documentation of first time in Jordan the Swiss from southeast Turkey to the last 150 years in the last 150 years in Europe," said Swiss Ambas-

sador G. F. Pedottti. "Face to Face with Switzerland," another exhibition, seeks to illustrate Swiss images, a people's way of life in state and society, through life-size photographs of Swiss citizens, rural and-orban, young and

On the lighter side, Dimitri, a famons Swiss clown, will communicate beyond cultural boundaries through the art of pantomime.

# WHAT'S GOING ON / STATE

#### CONCERT

Public performance hy American Opera singer Anita Wakim (accompanied by National Music Conservatory pianist Mohammad Othman Sidiq) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

#### **SEMINAR**

""Child's Excellence: Is it Inherited or Acquired?" (in Arabic) with the participation of Margo Malajanian and Samar Doudin at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, at 6:30 p.m.

FILM "Dave," at the American Center at 5:00

# DARAT AL FUNUN

**SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES** 

**EXHIBITIONS** 

Graphic work by several artists and students in the South Gallery.

Photography of Jordan, Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hilmi Hodeib at the Blue

Painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.

 Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Bacha and Joranian artist Ali Bermamet.

\* Open Air Sculpture workshop.

Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Central Gallery.

\* 3-D experiments in calligraphy hy Usama Khalidi at Library.

#### **EXHIBITIONS**

\* "Beneath the Waves," photographs on Agaba underwater life by Julia Reinholt at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.

\* Works by artist Ghazi 'Ayasrah at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.

\* Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jahal Amman.

\* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

# Detours on Amman roads likely during MENA summit, says Abbadi

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipali-Alia International Airport ty is husy planning how to facilitate the movement through Amman of hundreds of participants in the Middle East and North Africa dent in the Kingdom last (MENA) economic summit which will be opened Oct. 29, Amman Mayor Mamdouh Ahbadi said Saturday.

old child was killed after

being run over by a vehicle

in Yadoudeb, near Oueen

Highway, police reports

victim,

Mustafa, was the fourth

child to die in a road acci-

In Irbid on Friday, one per-

son was killed and five more

were injured in a road colli-

sion, an official report said.

the accident which took

place on the Amman-Irbid

highway involved a public

The driver of the car,

Ahmad Abdul Ruhman, 45,

Five of the hus passengers

were injured and were taken

to Princess Basma Hospital

in Irbid. They were dis-

charged the same day, the

hos and a private car.

was killed instantly.

According to the report,

The

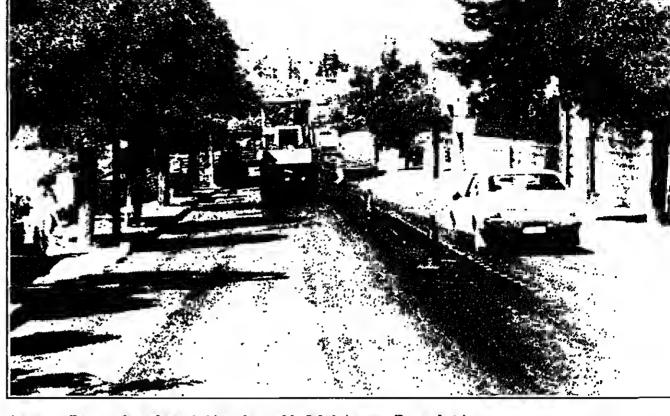
In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Ahhadi said the municipality will also begin cleaning up the city's streets, painting curbs and hanging banners welcoming partici-pants to the three-day inter-

national summit Describing the summit as the biggest gathering of international figures and representatives of foreign governments ever hosted by Jordan, be said changes in traffic routes and detours would more than likely he required during the summit .

He announced that the municipality will stage several cultural activities and organise tours to archaeological attractions for the

The mayor praised tree nursery owners who recently announced their donation of agricultural material worth JD 50.000 to the municipality to help spruce up the city, saying their initiative was a reflection of cooperation and interaction between the municipality and the various sectors of the society.

Dr. Abbadi urged private sector institutions to follow the lead of nursery owners in serving their city by belping



A steam roller completes the asphalting of a road in Jabal Amman (Petra photo)

the municipality improving public services.

He said the current street repairs and asphalting are part of the municipality's rontine work paid out of its annual hudget.

He said work was currently under way in asphalting streets in Marka, Quweismeh, Shafa Badran and Tla Al Ali.

The mayor added that the municipality was also open-ing a 2.5-kilometre road in

Ein Ghazal, in northeast Amman, to provide substitnte roads for motorists and reduce traffic congestion.

He said the municipality started using its own machinery to asphalt roads, but that development does not mean that the municipality has hegun to compete with the private sector. He said the private will always have its major role in municipal works. The objective, he

stressed, is to keep munici-

pality in proper working order at all times. .

Mayor leaves for Vienna

Dr. Abbadi later Saturday left for Vienna on a sevenday visit to Austria at the invitation of the Governor of Vienna.

The mayor, who is leading a several-member delegation from the municipality, said

trian officials to discuss enhancing cooperation between the mnnicipalities of Amman and Vienna and to benefit from the Austrian capital's expertise in the field of electronic surveillance of roads and central control of traffic lights.

During his stay in Vienna, Dr. Abbadi will also participate in a conference on means of exploiting waste

#### Report cites continuing assaults on holy places by Israel

AMMAN (Petra) — The Palestinian Affairs Department monthly report, released Saturday, said Israeli occupation authorities last month carried out repeated assaults against boly places in the Palestinian occupied territories, and continued their confiscation of Arab lands and the opening of roads for Israeli settlements.

The department said the Israeli authorities also continned to condoct mass and administrative arrests and demolish Arab-owned houses in violation of basic human rights.

The report also said Israeli anthorities closed the old city of Jerusalem and Al Aqsa Mosque following repeated attempts by Israeli settlers to break into the holy shrine and confrontations at the site between Jewish extremist groups and Palestinians defending the mosque.

The report said an Israeli ministerial committee on Jerusalem affairs decided to close three Palestinian institutions operating in Jerusalem — the radio and television corporation, the Statistics Centre and a health centre — under the pretext that the three establishments violate Israeli laws hy being linked to the Palestine National Authority

These decisions, the report stated, conspicuously contravene the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and Israeli official pledges on the status of Palestinian institutions operaring in Jerusalem.

This means the Israeli authorities are determined to prejudice the status of Jerusalem ahead of negotiating the future of the city with the Palestinians and ignoring Palestinian rights in the city on the one band and international legitimacy resolutions on the city on the other, the report said.

It said the attacks against religious sites were not exclusive to Al Aqsa Mosque, but included several others by Jewish extremists on places of worship elsewhere in Jerusalem and attempts to close Palestinian institutions in the city.

The report said the Israeli authorities confiscated large tracks of land in the areas of Deir Abu Daeef, Arrana, Jalama, Ramallah, Bireh and Beitounya. The occupation authorities

also continued their settlement activities and continued to block main roads intermittently in all parts of the territories, the report

The department cited an Israeli newspaper report as saying the Israeli Public Works Department was preparing to open four roads in the West Bank, one to surround Tulkarem, another around Jenin and two to girdle Ramallah.

The report went on to say that settlers were rampaging through the West Bank, shattering the windshields of

cars owned by Arab citizens. In addition, it said, Israeli army units broke into several mosques and confiscated Islamic books and religious tapes and extended the closure of the premises of the Palestine Scholars League for another six-month peri-

Furthermore, assaults targetting Arab shops, hospitals, health clinics and mosques continued in the occupied territories throughout August, the report said. It said assaults on Arabowned lands included the plowing down of crops or spraying them with damaging chemicals.

The report said Israeli police conducted mass arrests of Arab labourers and issued prison terms and heavy financial fines, in addition to detaining Arah labourers under various pretexts for several days.

It said Israeli authorities recently renewed the adminsitrative detention of Palestinians who were in ill health despite numerous calls by many homan rights organisations for their immediate and unconditional release.

The report appealed to all local and international human rights organisations to intervene to bring to an end to such administrative detentions which constitute a violation of human rights.

The Palestinian Affairs Department also crinicised long prison terms issued by Israeli courts against Palestinians, and the summary trials of Palestinian labourers arrested inside Israel without permits.

In addition, the report said conditions in Israeli jails, were bad, and detainees face health problems.

# First mobile telephone services company starts issuing 'subscriber identity modules'

By Beatrix Immenkamp Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (JMTS), the privately owned shareholding company providing cellular telephone services to Jordan, Saturday hegan to distribute to the public Subsriber Identity Modules, or SIM cards, required for the activation of cellular phones.

"Sobscribers who purchased their SIM cards today will be able to use their mobile telephones within a week," Nisreen Husary of JMTS told the Jordan Times.

"The same rule will apply to all subscribers; they will be able to use their mobile phones a week from the day of purchase of the SIM card," sbe added. JMTS, also known as

Fastlink, is expecting 200 to 500 customers a day during the distribution phase, which will last until Oct. 8.

Ten thousand potential customers registered with the company for SIM cards, paying a deposit of JD 100 each. Upon purchse of the SIM cards, customers have to pay an additional deposit of JD 150 for acces to international lines, a JD 70 onetime connection fee and a JD 21 fee for the first month.

Customers say they value the additional freedom of movement which they acquire with their mobile telephones.

operator whose company subscribed to six cellular lines, told the Jordan Times that his mobile phone will allow him to do several jobs simultaneously while remaining constantly avail-

He stressed that it would also allow him to offer better service to his customers, because he will be able to stay in much better contact with tour guides.

"A tour guide can tell me that he is on his way to the botel, so we can have everything ready for the tourists upon arrival. In tourism, providing good service is considered very important," he said.

A factory owner, Awni M. Sayej, who also owns a second business, will now he able to divide his time more effectively between east and west Amman, where his two husinesses are located.

Both businessmen said they were certain that despite high operating costs, cellular phones will prove cost effective, their most important feature being that they will save their owners time. And time is money,

A third customer, who prefered anonymity, deplored the high cost of cellular telephones available in Jordan in comparison to international prices.

On sale in the JMTS registration room at the Amman Crown Hotel were a range of Motorala mobile telephones, ranging in price between JD 650 and JD 850.

"Cellular telephones are subject to a 20% tax", Ms. Husary explained when asked about the high price of the telephones.

Customers who travel abroad are at an advantage, since they can purchase a handset ontside Jordan and use it with their SIM card here.

Visitors to the IMTS registration room interviewed by the Jordan Times agreed that the government should improve telecommunication services in the country and not rely on the private sector to provide services which are only available to a small section of the population.

A JMTS representative admitted that cellular telephone services "are helping to cover a shortfall in (conventional) landlines," provided hy Jordan's Telecommunications Corporation.

Italian firms to construct 71-km road to Agaba Italian consortium, said the new

AMMAN (Petra) - The Ministry of Public Works and Housing Saturday awarded a JD 32.3 million dollar contract to two Italian firms to build a 71kilometre stretch of road between Ras Al Naqah and The ministry's secretary gen-

eral. Bashir Jaghbeer, who signed the contract with the four-lane road will extend from kilometre 14 to the village of Mureighahnear kilometre 85 along the Desert Highway.

He said the project also entails constructing four bridges and a pedestrian under-

The project has been divided into two parts: a 43-kilometre stretch to cost JD 17.7 million. of which 70 per cent will be financed by a loan from the World Bank and the rest by the state treasury; and a 28-kilometre stretch that will cost JD 14.6 million, half of which will be financed by a loan from the European Investment Bank and the rest from the Jordanian trea-

TENDER'S NOTICE

The General Directorate of Supply / Ministry of Education announces the re-tendering of the following tenders as a part of the Sector Educational Project No. (3106-JO), (JO-P8),

Tender's No. Financed through 13/94 (C) Educational Video Cass. JD (25) 9/95 **Fumiture** JD (10)

(JD-P8) (3106-JO)Office Equipment Interested bidders are invited to collect tender's documents from Procurement Division of the General Directorate of Supply / Ministry of

Education, starting September 11, 1995 against the payment of the

Closing date will be 11.00 a.m. of October 25, 1995.

Head of Special **Tenders Committee** 

Marilyn knew her

old school ties. memoir reveals LONDON (AP) - Marilyn

Monroe's most convincing

role-playing may have been that of dumb blonde, a

memoir published Saturday revealed. Colin Clarke, a

writer and member of a

well-heeled British family

-- one brother is a retired

defence minister and anoth-

er is the doyen of art histori-

ans - published his diaries

as a young gofer on the set

of a 1956 Monroe film. First

impressions of Monroe on

the London set of The Prince And The Showgirl

were not good, wrote the 25-year-old Clarke, fresh out of Oxford and Eton, in

excerpts from the diaries published in the Daily Mail

newspaper. Monroe con-

stantly arrived late on the

set and forgot her line;

frustrating her co-star Laurence Olivier. Worse, she

necked with her just-mar-

ried hushand, playwright Arthur Miller, during the screening of the daily rushes - something Clarke described as "very un-British." Clarke's revelation

came when he walked into

Monroe's dressing room without knocking - and he

encountered her wearing

only a towel on her head."All I could see were

beautiful white and pink

curves," he wrote that day.

"I just stood there and stared and stammered, M.M. gave

me her most innocent smile.

'Oh, Colin,' sbe said, 'and you an old Etonian', "How

did she stay so cool? And

how did she know which school I had gone to and

what it meant? ... I realised

that behind the fog, M.M. could be a bit brighter than

we all think. Acting dumb is

a good way to make other people make fools of them-

# Chechenya accuses Russia of attacks

ple's blood" if Russia does-

n't stop its war in

Chechenya, a report said

Shamil Basayev declared

to a Chechen newspaper that

be will not balt his fight until

all Russian troops leave and

there is "a free, independent

Boris Yeltsin with his

against a whole nation, no

Omega, Alpha or Vympel

(crack Russian military)

units will help to save that

country from retribution."

Mr. Basayev was speaking

in a Chechen mountain area

in a recent interview with

Groznensky Rabochy, the

Interfax News Agency said.

The newspaper went on sale in the Chechen capital

A front-page photograph showed the 30-year-old

guerrilla leader standing in

his military fatigues with a

portrait of Mr. Dudayev in

the background. He said be

meets with Mr. Dudayev "as

he was quoted as saying.

"If Russia, its President

not stop

genocide

Chechenya."

entourage do

unprecedented

Grozny Friday.

MOSCOW (R) -- Chechen rebels accused Russia Saturday of carrying out rocket attacks on Checben villages - in violation of a ceasefire

Movladi Udugov, information minister in the breakaway forces of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, told Reuters hy telephone that Russian helicopters fired rockets at vil-1 lages in the Shali and Shaturi districts for 90 minutes Saturday.

No confirmation was available from the Russian side. "We have no such information," said a Defence Ministry spokesman in Moscow.

On Wednesday General Anatoly Romanov, Russia's commander Chechenya, said 8,000 Interior Ministry troops had been withdrawn under a military agreement that also

calls for rebels to disarm. Mr. Udugov linked Saturday's attack to the absence Gen. Romanov in Moscow for consultations. This is a violation of the ceasefire agreement. Russia

is continuing military opera-

tions. Our observers saw the attacks," Mr. Udugov said.

Russia has accused the Chechen side of failing to implement its side of the military agreement hy handing over the bulk of its

The two sides agreed Wednesday that the rebels should hand all their heavy weapons in by Sept. 20. TASS said only 1,250 guns had been handed in so far while 50,000 to 80,000 firearms were still at large.

The Chechens say the presence of Russian troops in the region makes many fighters reluctant to give up their weapons.

Russia sent troops to Chechenya last December to end the region's now fouryear-old drive for independence from Russia. Thousands have been killed in fighting and many more have fled their homes.

Sporadic clashes have continued despite the July ceasefire although heavy fighting is

Meanwhile the Chechen commander whose raid on a Russian town left over 100 people dead in June warned the need arises." of a "sea of innocent peo-

"as long as just one Russian soldier is on (Chechen) soil, peace and calm will be incomplete," Mr. Basayev said. "For two centuries of relentless struggle for freedom and independence, the Chechens have earned full sovereignty.

Russian troops, who entered the Caucasus Mountains region last December to crush its separatist claims, control most of Chechenya hut remain the target of sporadic attacks.

A July 30 military pact that called for prisoner exchanges, Chechen disarmament and partial Russian withdrawal has broken

Mr. Basayev referred to his June terrorist attack in the southern Russian town of Budynnnovsk as a "raid of despair ... For the sake of stopping the slaughter in

Chechenya."
He said be had never intended to carry out the raid anywhere hnt Budyonnovsk, contradicting earlier reports which had him planning to go all the way north to

Rescue workers look for survivors at the site of the Malaysian Airlines plane crash in the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah. The crash killed 34 people (AFP photo)

## Missing passenger from Malaysian plane crash walks into hospital

TAWAU, Malaysia (R) — A survivor from Malaysia's worst air crash in nearly two decades walked into a hospital Saturday, completing the plane disaster count of 34 people killed and 19 survivors.

The last survivor, Haroni Ladai is 34 years old and is a local resident. He was dazed and walked home yesterday after surviving," said Chua Soon Boi, member of parliament from Tawan in the north Borneo state of Sabah.

"He was not feeling too well this morning so he came into the hospital and theo reported to the authorities," she said. Mr. Haroni was unavailable for com-

The Malaysian Airline System (MAS) Fokker 50 aircraft carrying 49 passengers and a crew of four crashed into a squatter colony after overshooting the Tawau runway Friday afternoon. It was on a scheduled flight from Sabah's.

capital, Kota Kinabalu. Some of the survivors were seriously injured hut were not jo critical condi-tion, a local hospital doctor said. The crasb bad also injured nine people from the squatter colony and two of them were in a serious con-

dition, he said. Rescue officials said the pilot and co-pilot. Among the survivors who escaped through emergency donrs were three foreigners, two Singaporeans and one Indonesian, officials said.

Mr. Chua said identifying many of those killed had been difficult because they were burned beyond recognition in the fire after the

Other officials said MAS has flown in dental forensic experts to belp with identification.

Some of the victims' relatives claiming remains were more fortunate. "We are lucky. At least we were able to identify the body easily," said a grieving P. Murugan, whose 26-year-old sister-inlaw, Vijaylakshmi, an

employee of international toy company Mattel, died in the crash. She was on a husiness trip to Tawau,

Mr. Murugan said he was taking the body back to Kuala Lumpur later Satur-

At the site, the twin-propeller Fokker's starboard engine was the only recognisable part of the aircraft.

"There were three consecutive explosions immediately after a loud crash. When we ran out we could only see fire, which was spreading very fast. All we could do was pick up our important people killed were documents and run for our

40, who lives in the squatter

The fire took rescuers two hours to extinguish, stopping it just before Mr. Sampe's wooden house. Most houses in the colony are wooden and built on

Many other residents were not so lucky. A third of squatter colony was devastated hy the crash and the

The blaze destroyed 45 leaving Malaysian and eight foreign (Indonesian and Filipino) families homeless, a Welfare Department official said. He did not have the exact population of the area.

"But the residents didn't appear too unhappy," one observer in Tawau said. They said if it hurnt down I'll just build it again next week," be said.

MAS could not explain wby the crasb occurred and was not prepared to discuss compensation to victims.

"We are taking it one stage at a time. Right now we are husy belping the relatives of the victims," MAS Chairman Tajudin Ramli told reporters between talking to relatives departing from Kuala Lumpur on a special MAS flight early Saturday

#### Lottery winner rescues ticket from washing machine LONDON (AP) — It all

came out in the wash. A nightclub bouncer checking his jeans pockets before tossing them into the washing machine uncovered a 10-day-old lottery ticke Press Association, Britain's domestic news service reported. Rob Campbell gave the ticket to his common-law wife to check at their local lottery outlet Wednesfield, a town in ceptral England. Caroline Emery learned that the ticket had won the Sept. 2 jack pot: the couple and their two-children were £1.4 million (\$2,240,000) richer. "I never keep track of my numbers," said Mr. Campbell, 29. The first thing he was going to do was quit his joh, he said. And his first spending priority? "I suppose I can get someone else to do my washing from now on." the National Lottery said that 10 days was the

#### Bob Hope fires , butler for not shaving

longest anyone had waited

before cashing in a jackpot

since the lottery's inception.

LOS ANGELES (R) - Bob Hope's former hutler filed a wrongful termination suit against the legendary come; dian Friday, saying he was fired for refusing to shave off his beard. In a suit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, Jeffery Branum stati ed that Hope and his wife hired him in December 1993 after seeing a photograph of him with a neatly groomed beard and informing him that his appearance was acceptable. Mr. Branum said he reached an agreemeot to work for the Hopes for five years at an annual salary of \$50,000. But be alleged that about two weeks after he was hired. the Hopes told him they had an "unwritten law" that no employee was allowed to wear facial bair and he would have to shave if he wanted to keep bis joh. Mr. Brannm, who had 10 years experience as a butler, said he refused and was "wrongfully terminated" the same day. Hope's publicist, Ward Grant, said the Hopes were not aware of the civil lawsuit and would have no comment until they had read

## Hurricane Marilyn batters Virgin Islands, moves on Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Hurricane Marilyn hattered the U.S. Virgin Islands with high winds and heavy rains Friday, causing severe damage before mov-ing on to take aim at eastern

Puerto Rico. Winds of up to 127 mph (204 kph) destroyed trailer parks and blew the roofs off many houses in St. Croix. witnesses and forecasters

"There was a lot of damage done to the island," said Brian Maher, a forecaster at the National Weather Service in Miami. He said radio reports received from St. Croix indicated several areas had suffered "severe

damage.1 Marilyn, the third major storm to batter the Caribbean in less than a month, was a category two burricane with sustained winds of 105 mpb (168) kpb), the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said. It could strengthen to a category three storm, with winds of 111 to 130 mph (179 to 209 kph) by early Saturday, it

Island residents huddled in shelters all day awaiting the arrival of Marilyn. St. Thomas, in the U.S. Virgin Islands north of St. Croix, experienced winds close to 100 mph (161kpb) that brought 10 inches (25 cm) of

St. Thomas lost electrical power at midday and stores sold out of batteries, ice and other supplies. It was under a curfew starting at 3 p.m. edt (1900 GMT) with everyone hut emergency workers forbidden to leave their homes, officials said.

Government offices, businesses and schools in the Virgin Islands were closed, and boats were in burricane boles and sheltered harbours as residents prepared for the

"We're not taking any chances. We're advising residents to take this storm very seriously," said Donovan Gentles, a coordinator for the Office of Disaster Preparedness in the British Virgin Islands.

Storm-weary residents of Puerto Rico, still recovering from a brush with hurricane Luis 10 days ago, prepared frantically Friday as Marilyn

At 11 p.m. edt (0300 GMT) the eye of the hurricane was just east of Puerto Rico and moving northwest at eight to 10 mpb (13-16 kpm), a path that was expected to continue over the next 24 bonrs, forecast-

Puerto Rican supermarkets, their shelves still depleted from a rusb to buy goods for Luis, were so crowded that many stores added security guards to keep shoppers in line. Streets were jammed as residents scrambled to buy candles, water and other sup-

Banks, schools and government offices were closed all day or shut down early Friday. Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rossello activated the island's emergency plan and declared a state of emergency as of 6 p.m. edt (2200 GMT). San Juan's international airport closed at mid-

day. Marilyo claimed its first life, at least indirectly, in Puerto Rico Friday when a 17-year-old was electrocuted as he removed an antenna from the roof of his home near San Juan.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre said the compact storm - hurricaneforce winds extended just 30 miles (48 kilometres) from its centre - could fluctuate in intensity over the next 24 ··· A previous storm, burri-

cane Iris, had threatened the eastern Caribbean at the end of August, but it caused little damage as it brushed through as a tropical storm. But 10 days ago, one of

the most powerful storms of the century, hurricane Luis, roared through the eastern Caribbean. With deadly 140 mpb (225 kph) winds, Luis smashed Antigua, Barbuda, Anguilla and St. Martin, killing at least 16 people.

Emergency officials said everyone was weary from the repeated preparations, but relieved that most residents seemed to be getting ready nonetheless.

"The fact that we just went through Luis helped, definitely," Mr. Gentles said. "Many places were hattened down already. People had a stronger sense of the need to be prepared."

In Fajardo, a low-lying town on the northeast coast of Puerto Rico. pickup trucks cruised through the streets with loudspeakers urging people to abandon their homes and seek shelter.

## *Typhoon* Oscar threatening Japan

TOKYO (R) - One of Japan's strongest typhoons since the war roared north Saturday, threatening to batter the Tokyo region with high winds and whip up 10metre waves, the Meteorological Agency said.

Typhoon Oscar, gusting up to 180 kph (110 mpb) at its centre, was 900 km (550 miles) south-southwest of Tokyo at 3.00 p.M. (0600 GMT) Saturday, and bead-ing for the capital at 20 km (13 miles) per bour.

It would hit or be near Tokyo about 9 a.M. (2400 GMT) Sunday, the agency

Seas were building Saturday afternoon, and some ferry services to southern islands bad already been cancelled, the agency said.

The pressure at the typboon's centre was 925 hectopascals, as low as the strongest typhoons to hit Japan since the war. However, the agency's forecasters said that because of Japan's topography and the relatively cool sea temperature it was likely to ease off to 940 hectopascals, before reaching the Japanese coast. The forecasters said it might veer east and not hit direct-

"If it follows the westernmost course it will hit the coast directly," said Toshihiko Sobajima, a forecaster at the Meteorological Agency's offices. information

"But it won't necessarily do this there would still be strong winds, hat it would-n't be as bad," he said.

WASHINGTON (AFP) -

#### Malaysians, including the lives," said Luman Sampe, morning. **Poll: Powell would beat Clinton**

WASHINGTON (R) — Retired General Colin Powell would easily beat President Bill Clinton in a two-way election held now if be ran as a Republican, a poll showed.

It also said be would narrowly win a three-way race if he ran as an independent and Senate majority leader Bob Dole were the Republican candidate, the Time magazine/CNN poll said.

The poll, taken amid a hurricane of publicity surrounding a tour by the former Gulf War general to promote his memoirs, showed that as the Republican presidential nominee, he would beat Clinton 46 to 38 per cent in an election

The remainder were unsure or said they wouldn't vote. In a three-way race, Gen.

Powell as an independent would eke out a victory by 33 per cent against Mr. Clinton's 30 per cent and Sen. Dole's 24 per cent statistically a first-place tie since the margin is within the poll's margin of error.

The poll taken Wednesday and Thursday among 1,000 people had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

An earlier June poll by the same group asking opinions of a race between Mr. Clinton and Gen. Powell as a Republican had Gen. Powell winning 44 to 41 per cent. In a three-way-

independent it had Mr. Clinton winning 33 per cent, Gen. Powell getting 29 per cent and Sen. Dole 27 per cent. Gen. Powell, who rose

race with Gen. Powell as an

from a New York City ghetto to become the first hlack to serve as the top U.S. military officer, said he will announce his intentions to run or not run in November.

In a CBS television interview Friday, Gen. Powell said that running as a Republican offers him the best chance to win the 1996 presidential race hut added be would not rule out an independent candidacy.

# Simpson prosecution witness casts doubt on defence theory

LOS ANGELES (R) — As prosecutors in the O.J. Simpson trial neared the end of their rehuttal, an FB1 expert Friday cast doubt on the defence theory that two assailants committed the murders the former football star is charged with.

William Bodziak, the FBI's top specialist on shoe print evidence, contradicted earlier testimony by a defence scientist that mysterious impriots found at the crime scene could be the bloody shoe prints of a second killer.

Testifying as the prosecu-tion's final witness in the weeklong rebuttal phase of Simpson's trial, Mr. Bodziak said the marks that Dr. Henry Lee, one of the nation's pre-eminent forensics experts, previously referred to were actually defects in the concrete walkway where the murders took place.

Under questioning hy chief prosecutor Marcia Clark, Mr. Bodziak also criticised Mr. Lee for hasing his ohservations on his examination of photographs taken of other photographs.

Mr. Bodziak's testimony came as the prosecution prepared to rest its pared-down rebuttal case, a phase in which the government is given a chance to counter testimony presented during the defence case. The defence refused to rest

its case last week while it appealed an unfavourable court ruling, and in an extremely rare move, Judge Lance Ito ordered prosecutors to begin calling rebuttal witnesses to keep the trial on

The defence wants to end its case next week with a hang, pitting a FBI scientist against one of his colleagues in an effort to show misconduct in the investigation.

As jurors have grown increasingly restless and surly after more than eight months of sequestration, both sides are speeding up their presentations. The last two witnesses challenged defence claims that several people - Simpson not among them --- carried out the slayings of the defendant's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her

friend. Ron Goldman, on

June 12, 1994 outside her

Prosecutors have maintained from the beginning that Simpson acted alone, slashing the two victims to death on a narrow, shrublined walkway. In lengthy testimony for

the defence, Mr. Lee had backed the defence' "second killer" theory, pointing to parallel lines found on Goldman's jeans and on pieces of paper at the murder scene along with unexplained marks on the walkway. But Mr. Bodziak said the

only bloody shoe prints at the crime scene were made by a pair of size-12 Bruno Magli shoes such as those prosecutors say Simpson wore the night of the slayings. "There are no other shoe impressions 1 examined or saw," Mr. Bodziak said after reviewing a series of photographs.

Next week the defence team hopes to call FB1 scientist Frederic Whitehurst, a witness they hope will help undermine the credibility of all the FBI crime laboratory analysts who have testified

President Bill Clinton, wad-Washington. ing deep into the high-stakes budget hattle with the Republican-held Congress, has threatened to veto conservative plans to cut spending on health care for the elderly. Mr. Clinton, calling for a

compromise, said plans to trim \$270 hillion from the popular Medicare bealth programme that serves nearly 40 million U.S. residents goes too far. "This is not what it takes

to save Medicare," he said. "if these health care cuts come to my desk, of this size, I would have no choice but to veto it." Republicans in the House

of Representatives unveiled their proposal Thursday to revamp Medicare, the federal health insurance programme used by elderly and disabled Americans. Senate Republicans were working on a similar plan.

hold dear.

The plan got a positive review from Texas billionaire Ross Perot, the unsuccessful presidential candidate who has argued for fiscal restraint and reform in

U.S. battle escalates over health care spending

"It takes a lot of conrage to touch this alligator," said Mr. Perot, who got 19 per cent of the vote as an independent candidate in 1992. If you were just being a politician, you would not touch this thing."

Republicans say the federal health care system will go hankrupt if they do not reform it now, and blame Democrats for pandering to the fears of the elderly, who vote in overwhelming num-

They won majorities in both houses of Congress last November for the first time in four decades, on promises of balancing the federal budget in seven years by cutting spending - most in social programmes that Democrats

Democrats, including Mr. Clinton, charge that Republicans aim to cut Medicare at triple the rate necessary in order to stabilise spending to finance a tax cut for the representative and leader of the House Democrats, said his party would fight to ensure that "the health of the elderly (will) not be battered away for a fistful of supplyside silver."

Dick Gephardt, a Missouri

Both sides generally agree that the stakes are high for both parties. House Speaker Newt Gingrich told a television inter-

viewer early Friday that the

Medicare reform issue could

boost or break Republican

momeonim in Congress. He called the proposed cutbacks "a very responsible, very serious effort to preserve and protect the Medicare system" but conceded that a tough sales job

lies ahead. "It's so emotional that unless we are very careful and very educational and very straightforward, literally, I think, you could see the whole support for wbat we're trying to do crumble,"

Mr. Gingrich said. Meanwhile, the stakes escalate with every passing day as the end of the fiscal year approaches, which is hy custom the time for approving changes such as the proposed restructuring

Medicare and welfare. Democrats are especially enraged that Republicans unveiled their Medicare proposal so late in the process. allowing only a few days before pushing the plan out compromise-making

committees. "Right now, quite frankly, we're operating off a press release that they (Republicans) issued yesterday," the White House said Friday. "The devil is in the detail when it comes to these kind of proposals. And we do not have a bill that has been presented to the Republicans yet," he said.

The House proposal would double premiums over seven years, phase out some subsidies for affluent Americans. give participants options for medical coverage, and automatically cut payments to health care providers who fail to meet savings targets.

out back into their bomes.

officials and witnesses said.

Opposition pickets, how-

ever, marched on the streets

They said buses and trains

were stranded as pickets

erected barricades on high-

ways and railway tracks.

Some ferries operated but

domestic and international

flights were cancelled or

Dhaka

Exchange and the Foreign-

Exchange Market were

The strike was called by

main opposition parties in

their latest effort to force

Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia to step down.

They want her to allow

early elections, not due

before next March, super-

vised by a neutral caretaker

administration beaded by

the chief justice to ensure

Chandraswamy's "colossal

clout in the capital is

matched only by the mystery

about his sources of power".

Some senior politicians con-

sult him before making deci-

The bearded boly man, nicknamed the "Flying Yogi" and the "jet-setting

tantric", includes the sultan

of Brunei and actress Eliza-

beth Taylor among his

friends, according to the

The Indian Express news-

paper called him "an opera-

tor with enormous and extra-

constitutional clout in the

higher echelons of power

The order to arrest Chan-

draswamy was issued by

Rajesh Pilot, who was shift-

ed from the Hnme Ministry

to the Environment and

Forests Ministry in an appar-

Mr. Pilot gave the order on

the eve of the reshuffle,

prompting speculation he

was trying to stave nff a

down-grading by focusing

attention on the guru and his

political connections.

Times of India.

and public life".

ent demotion.

officials

with few passengers.

delayed.

The

braving the rain, they said.

free and fair voting.

Ms. Khaleda, elected in

1991 in what were billed as

the country's first free polls,

has rejected the demands,

but she offered to resign 30

days before the 1996 elec-

Her opponents, including

Sheikh Hasina of the Awami

League, turned down the

offer as inadequate. The

prime minister must quit

office at least 90 days before

the polls, Mrs. Hasina said.

In the capital, Dhaka,

explosions of bome-made

bombs, mostly firecracker-

types but a few packed with

metal fragments, beralded

the beginning of the stop-

Police said nearly 150 peo-

ple were injured in clashes

between opposition activists

and supporters of the ruling

Party (BNP) outside Dhaka

Nearly 30 policemen were

"Since Mr Pilot's demand

became known at a time

when the prime minister was

contemplating changing

portfolios of his ministerial

colleagues, bis move could

be construed as an effort to

ward off any change in his

Mr. Pilot said the arrest

order was in line with Mr.

Rao's instructions to bave a

clean and accountable gov-

But newspapers said Mr.

Pilot had opened a potential

can of worms in the event an

embarrassing links between

Chandraswamy and politi-

cians in Mr. Rao's Congress

The Hindustan Times said

"the proximity of the god-

man, apparent nr real, tn the

centres of power, including

the prime minister, has been

bandy grist to many a

Chandraswamy is part of

the tantric tradition, whose

adherents believe their gurus

have attained supernatural

powers by worshipping Kali, the Hindu goddess of

revealed

investigation

rumour mill".

portfolio," the Hindu said.

Nationalist

page, police said.

Bangladesb

Rao finishes cabinet reshuffle amid row

also hurt during clashes in

the towns of Chandpur, Jes-

sore. Barisal and Bhola,

police and local officials

Three people were treated in a hospital in Jessore after

they were hit by bullets and

bomb shrapnel, local

Authorines have deplnyed

nearly 5,000 riot police and

paramilitary troops to tight-

en security in Dhaka, a city

Streets were virtually

Troops were seen guarding

empty except for few rick-

shaws on roads usually

the residence of Home Min-

ister Abdul Matin Chowd-

hury, and the main govern-

ment secretariat in the heart

of the city, witnesse's said.

Schools and most offices

were sbut but top officials

and some ministers slept in

their offices overnight,

Newspapers reported that

Mr. Pilot ordered Cban-

draswamy's arrest after Om

charged with murder and

recently extradited from Sin-

gapore, made allegations

But the guru remained free

Chandraswamy said he

would file a case in Delhi

High Court against Mr.

Pilot. "I am going to court,"

the Asian Age quoted Chan-

draswamy as saying. "The

order is mala fide. It is mis-

In the reshuffle, Mr. Rao

clipped the wings of several

older ministers who had

He stopped short of dis-

missing anyone hnt placed

up-and-coming junior min-

isters in several key posts to

marginalise the controver-

sial cabinet ministers, gov-

emment officials said.

crossed swords with him.

use of power."

and spoke to several news-

under interrogation.

Shrivastava,

Chandraswamy

Prakash

against

papers.

police told reporters.

reserved for automobiles.

reporters said.

of nine million.

old school tig memoir reveal tede blaying may part reseded Colin Chi writer and member well heeled limbs

or to the doyen of and and published had the Louden of Me. Common the Common And the Section of Me. exceeps from the ten paye Monte P the straing her the Thousands of Dhaka residents jam buses at the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the What I want to the What I want to the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the terms of the Sayedabad terminal as the sayedabad terminal as Bombs injure 6 in Bangladesh nationwide strike Aubia Miller, dur creening of the dath Pil. DHAKA (R) — Bombs contenting thed a packed with metal fragments came when he wast vin the Bangladesh capital Monrae Sanday as a 72-hour

Montage diesale relational strike gripped the without knoking renational surke garget encountered her s bend will be the scrip's crowded Nawabour bend All I could a licity's crowded opposition be antitul white ag canning for the government of the resign and allow early and stammered the celections, one witness said. the her most mineral st. A blast sbook areas near Oh. Colm. h. a the National Sports Control you an old Lowar did she stay so we how that she know, wellcool I had gold reported from that belined the large ing the port of Chittagong as could be a but buck of the strike, which began at 6 we all think Acting a the country of 110 million to prople make holes a virtual standstill.

2. One bomb exploded in the

activists paraded the streets,

Board but no one was burt,

Sporadic explosions were

a.m. (0000 GMT), brought

Rain sweeping through

much of the country rein-

forced the stoppage, driving

the few people who ventured

NEW DELHI (R) - Indian

Prime Minister P.V.

Narasimha Rao completed a

three-stage cabinet reshnffle

as controversy mounted Sat-

urday over an order to arrest

'a politically powerful Hindu

In distributing the portfo-lios, Mr. Rao shifted a balf-

dozen ministers to lesser

posts and injected fresh

blood into his four-year-old

government in what was

widely seen as a move to

gear up for general elections

But the resbuffle was

clouded by the order issued

who wields influence in the

The composition of the

revamped government was

announced late Friday. It

came four days after five

ministers triggered the

reshuffle by resigning and

two days after the names,

The Hindu newspaper said

WASHINGTON (AFP) -

dne by mid-1996.

and business.

boly man.

police said

Lottery wir resquestic from washing macone

 $\Omega B = B^{\dagger} A e^{A} G A = -60.5$ 

for day old flowing a

Proceeding the second contraction to be a apparent Robins enverthe a year to

in the manager had to but not the titles, nf 19 new second-tier ministers were Bob Hope fires Horse than a year after Conwith the following the contradiction

butler for not shaving TON VEHILLS Red

and the today no

gress vowed to stand up for areas and be eather a freedom in Europe hy taking diameters of a many key former East Bloc countries into NATO, lawmakers are off his boats had sing showing a new reluctance to m Cox Torolla Mix broaden U.S. security oblig-Court Court Brands Charles and her farmed the man party of the farmed the farmed to the farmed the farmed the farmed the farmed to the farmed the farmed to the far As ambassadnrs nf the to the state of th

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation NATO in Bruswednesday the results of a major study on Niera major study on NATO eilargement, Congress has adopted a wait-and-see attiting the state of that marks a striking contrast to its earlier enthusiasm for expansion Slasm for expansion.

There has been a little bit market and he will have been a little bit works and he had he collargement." said the little bit the little bit had been a little bit the little bit had been a little bit had b the Height the Holding away on NATO Sloan, an analyst with the Congressional Research
Service and author of a White the second author of a manufacture of NATO.

Annual who had been some of the practition of the practical state

U.S. enthusiasm over fast NATO expansion dies down planks in the "Contract With America" political manifesto, arguing that after decades of Cummunist domination, the United States should ensure that the fnrmer Soviet-ruled countries are firmly anchored in the

> But lingering questions about the plan including cost, and uncertainty over the fate of the military alliance as it tackles Bosnia, have brought a sobering note to the debate over whether the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Sluvakia sbould be admitted to

NATO. One example illustrating the new mood in Congress came last month when Republican Senator Hank Brown from Colorado was forced to withdraw a measure that would have authorised funds to help countries of the former Warsaw Pact accede to NATO.

The measure amendement to the NATO participation act — was tn be taken up by the powerful Appropriation Committees who oversee spending for

The new Republican-controlled Congress, bowing tn pressore from Polish-American and nther ethnic lubby groups, accused the administration earlier this year of

dragging its feet on NATO The administration of President Bill Clinton last year began moving towards enlargement and called nn the 16-member alliance to determine the "how" and "why" of broadening NATO

But reassuring Russia has been a major sticking point in efforts to widen the security alliance amid growing fears that expansion could anger Moscow and unnecessarily create tension between the two former cold war rivals.

as a first step towards expan-

"The Russians are very mercurial right now, and what's going on in Bosnia bas created less enthusiasm in penple's minds," a Democratic enngressinnal staffer said, referring to the NATO air campaign launched two weeks ago against Bosnian Democratic Senator Sam

Nunn, an authoritative voice on security issues, dealt a major blow to the administration in June when he called for a mnre cautious approach to NATO enlarge-

NATO expansinn chuld jeopardise the pursuit of more important foreign policy gnals, including developing a stable relationship "with the most important country in the world in terms of potential for proliferation nf weapons of mass destruction," Sen. Nunn said in a

speech. This is the stuff that selffulfilling prophecies, and historic tragedies, are made of," he warned.

Experts predicted Congress will not be called upon to vote on admitting new members to NATO before

A two-thirds majority is required in the Senate to ratify any changes to the 1949 North Atlantic Treaty, which obliges the United States to come to the defence of any nf its NATO allies.

# Civilians hit in Sri Lanka shelling

COLOMBO (R) — Civilians were scurrying for cover on Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula Saturday and at least two were killed when Tamil rebels engaged government troops in a beavy shelling duel, military sources and residents said.

There were conflicting reports from the eastern sector after Friday's guerrilla attack on a military post where the army said seven of its personnel were killed and nine were missing. The rebels said the nine were also killed.

Heavy shelling by the army from the strategic northern Palaly Air Base continued for the fourth day as troops tried to clear the area of rebel mortar posts, residents said.

Troops, moving ahead with their operation Handshake-2, fired shells at Puthur, Achchuveli, Ooralu Urumpirai, residents

The Tigers retaliated with firing from the Puthur area. Two civilians were killed and eight more injured in the crossfire in the nperation involving more than 3,000 troops, residents said.

Human-rights groups, concerned about the safety of the residents in the Jaffina battle zone, have asked the government to advise it about measures to ensure the civilians' safety.

spokesman Defence Brigadier Sarath Muneshinghe said the operation aimed at securing the Palaly base against mortar attacks was continuing Saturday.

Rebel sources in the eastem Batticaloa administrative district said guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers nf Tamil Eelam (LTTE) blew up two power transformers. leaving most parts of the 16th century port city without electricty. .

The military denied the claim, but conceded the LTTE's claim it had blown up the railway line linking Batticaloa with Colombo.

Defence analysts said the attacks appeared to be part of the Tigers' campaign to prevent the eastern garrisons from joining a huge army offensive on Jaffna expected before the monsoons arrive in October.

The army says it suffered a temporary setback Wednesday when an air force plane carrying soldiers to Palaly

crashed in the sea off Colombo, killing all 75 people on board.

The air force says a court of inquiry was looking into possible sabotage but on Friday an air force spokesman said bad weather appeared to be the most-likely cause of the crash of the Antonov-32 bought from Ukraine in July.

The government has banned all domestic flights following the crash hut the air force said the issues were not linked.

Military sources said the ban stemmed from recent intelligence reports the Tigers planned to bire or hijack a civilian aircraft to bomb the parliament.

The Tigers have been fighting since 1983 for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the war.

Meanwhile police said Saturday they had found more washed-up debris from the wreckage of the Sri Lankan plane

Fragments of aluminium, slippers, shoes, torn travelling hags as well as body parts were found on the beach near Marawila, about 50 kilometres north of the crasb site Friday, police said.

"This is believed to be from the air force plane which crashed on Wednes-

day," a police source said. The source added that a small body part had been identified through a birth mark as the aircraft's navigator, Jason Martenstyn, whn was in his early twen-

The air force has said it will have to seek internanonal assistance to salvage the wreckage which is believed to have gone down in 1,000 metres of water but no formal government move had yet been made.

Air force sources also corrected earlier reports that captain of the aircraft, Squadrnn Leader Ravi Pakiyanathan, 33, was to take over the command of the aircraft for the first time Wednesday. He had captained the aircraft at least twice before, they said.

Police have questioned three policemen who loaded crates of cigarettes, the only cargo taken aboard the plane, amid suspicion that a bomh may have been hidden inside the packages.

## *Pope* arrives on first visit to S.Africa

JOHANNESBÜRG (R) — Pope John Paul arrived in Johannesburg Saturday on his first visit to postapartheid South Africa.

The Pope's Cameroon Airlines Boeing 747 landed at Johannesburg Interna-tional Airport shortly after 4 p.m. (1400GMT) from the Cameroon capital Yaounde nn the second leg of a threenation tour, bis 11th visit to Africa since he became leader of the Roman Catholic Church in 1978.

The Pontiff was greeted by South African President Nelson Mandela, Deput Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad, provincial Premier Tokyo Sexwale and cardinals, arcbbisbops and bisbops from around sonthern Africa.

The Pope landed in Johannesburg six years ago almost to the day when bad weather forced his plane down on a flight to the mountain kingdom of Lesotho, which is surrounded hy South Africa.

He travelled by road the 350 Kilometres south to the Lesotho capital Maseru, reluctant tn acknowledge Snuth Africa's then apartheid rulers.

The arrival in South Africa today of Pope John Paul II is a timely reminder of just how far South Africa has come since the bleak days when it was an nutcast," Inhannesburg's Saturday Star newspaper said in an editorial.

"His presence here, while vastly significant to his followers, should give all South Africans cause to celebrate," it said.

President Mandela's spokesman **Parks** Mankahlana said the visit was a vote of confidence in the political changes in the country.

The highlights of the snuthern Africa visit will be a mass at the Gosforth Park race course in Germiston on Jnhannesburg's eastern outskirts.

Organisers are anticipating up tn 400,000 people way nver the 150,000 whn went to Pretoria for Mr. Mandela's inauguration last year and probably the biggest gathering the country has ever seen. Between eight and 10 per cent of the country's 40 million people are Catholics.

Mr. Mandela is likely to attend the mass. -Later Sunday, the Pope

will preside at Johannesburg's Cathedral of Christ the King over the closing of the synod of African hishops, which opened in Rome in April to map the needs and concerns of the continent's . 123 million Catholics.

## Mandela announces process for apartheid truth commission

PRETORIA (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela Saturday set in motion the process for appointing a truth commission which will probe human rights abuses and atrocities in South Africa during the 45 years of apartheid.

Mr. Mandela, speaking at a ceremony where be received an bonorary law degree from the University of South Africa, announced the names of a panel which will select nominations for the commission.

The "Truth and Reconciliation" Commission will have wide-ranging powers to grant indemnity from prosecution to members of the previous regime's security forces in return for full diclosure of the crimes they committed in defence of

apartheid. Because Mr. Mandela's coalition government wants the process to be even-handed, guerillas of his African National Congress and other liberation armies who were involved in atrocities will also have to appear before the commission.

Another of the commission's functions will be to grant restitution to the victims of the conflict who were tortured, maimed or abused as well as the families of those killed.

Thousands of people are estimated to bave died during white-rule in covert operations carried out by the security forces, or in bomh blasts and attacks hy antiapartheid guerillas.

The commission will be in place by the end of 1995, Mr. Mandela said. Chairing the eight-mem-

ber panel announced by Mr. Mandela is the president's law advisor Nicholas Haysom. Other members include

Baleka Kgositsile, an ANC member of parliament and Ray Radue, a senator of the conservative National Party which ran the country until last year's historic all-race elections.

The head of the Methodist Church in South Africa. Bishop Peter Storey will also serve on the panel, along with representatives of the legal profession.

The public will be invited to submit nominatious for the commission and the panel will draw up a short list from which Mr. Mandela will select the commission-

"Though the president was given powers to appoint the commissioners, we consider it crucial that that process should be as open and as legitimate as we want the final product to be.

"We are confident that through this process, we will emerge with a commission made up of individuals of moral integrity who are committed to buman rights, reconciliation and disclosure of the truth," Mr. Mandela

Despite assurances that the commission will be impartial, the extra-parliamentary white right has described the plan as a "witch-bunt" and compared it to the post-World War II Nuremberg Trials.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Zulu-nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party, senior members of which have been implicated in para-military activities and the murders of ANC supporters, is also sceptial of the commission.

Inkatha abstained in a vote in parliament earlier this national unity and reconciliation bill providing for the commission, was passed.

More than 1.000 academics and diplomats attended the graduation ceremony Saturday when the University of South Africa (UNISA) conferred an bonorary doctorate in law on Mr. Man-

Mr. Mandela completed a bachelor degree in law through UNISA during his 27 years in prison.

UNISA is the largest edncational facility running external degree courses in Africa with 130,000 stu-

## Mexicans set aside economic worries to celebrate independence

MEXICO CITY (AP) — With mariachi music, fireworks and cries of "Viva Mexico" Mexicans set aside their worries about the country's economic crisis for a few hours to celebrate their country's independence.

During the most important patriotic celebration of the year, President Ernesto Zedillo stood on the balcony nf the National Palace late Friday tn issue the "gritn,"

the traditional reenactment of the first cry of independence 185 years agn.

"Long live nur independence" Mr. Zedillo shouted tn tens of thousands of people crowded into the capital's main plaza, the Zocaln. As in years past, Mexicans celebrated hy wearing flop-

py, wide-brimmed hats, . scattering multi-coloured confetti and tussing flour into the eyes of unsuspecting passers-by. Earlier in the day, festivities were interrupted by a series of protests by garbage collectors and laid-off bus drivers who complained that there was nothing to celehrate.

"We want our jnhs hack" several hundred unemployed drivers shouted Friday afternoon during a rally nutside Mexico's Stock

#### Astronauts step out for a cold spacewalk

CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Two astronauts hundled up and floated out of shuttle Endeavnur Saturday for a spacewalk aimed at getting them as cold as possible.

James Voss and Micbael Gernhardt wore new heated gloves during their excursion in the freezing vacuum of space - minus 57 degrees Celsius (minus 135 degrees Fahrenheit) at times. They also tested thermal mittens, thermal socks, boot inserts and redesigned long under-

NASA is experimenting with gear to keep spacewalking astronauts warm when they start building the international space station near the end of the decade. nance will require hundreds of bours of spacewalks. Gernhardt said he considers Saturday's spacewalk a

Construction and mainte-

"midterm exam" for NASA. We're going to be evaluating, essentially, most of

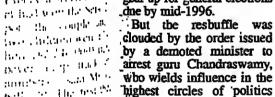
the building blocks that will make up the space station assembly and maintenance tasks," Gernhardt said during a space-to-earth news conference Friday. "lt's really going to let us quantify where we're at, where we need to go."

The last time shuttle astronauts tonk a spacewalk, in February, their fingers froze and they had to hurry back inside.

Saturday's spacewalk 340 kilometres (212 miles) above Earth was supposed to last six bours. It started a little late because of a problem with the communication system on Voss' suit.

The plan called for Vnss and Gernhardt to test 17 tools designed for space station use. Tasks included twisting and untwisting fasteners and connectors, and removing and reinstalling an alnminum shield similar to what will cover the international space station to protect against tiny meteorites.

Neither Voss nor Gernbardt had performed a spacewalk before. Gernhardt figured his underwater experieoce winld help. He was a professional deep-sea diver before joining NASA.



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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

#### For Iraqis, as always

IT IS indeed troubling for us to hear the "case" for tightening the economic noose around Iraq by closing Jordan's borders with its eastern neighbour. Troubling because the issues at stake are not simply the kind of black and white pieces that some are trying to put together but whose piecing could affect the very fabric and history of Jordan and the principles that the Kingdom has followed for decades.

As His Majesty King Hussein said yesterday, Jordan never entertained and will not entertain the thought of closing its borders with Iraq since the Kingdom and its people care for the people of Iraq and are sincerely seeking to alleviate their suffering. No amount of pressure from any source will force Jordan to deviate from its principled stand towards its Arab brethren in their hour of need.

Suggestions that Jordan has changed its policy are necessarily coming out not of a vacuum but from vested interests of some. The King's affirmation, which he has repeated several times since Aug. 8 defection of Hussein Kamel to Jordan, should be a clear message to all those who are trying to fish in murky waters.

Yielding to international pressure that was slowly turning to be a de facto blockade on Jordan itself, we accepted an effective supervision of all goods destined to Iraq passing through Jordanian territory. The acceptance came despite the lopsidedness of the arrangement, clearly visible when we take into account the massive smuggling of goods into Iraq through other countries neighbouring Iraq. Having accepted the arrangement and having proved to the outside world that no contraband goods are entering Iraq through Jordan or that the Kingdom is a conduit for Iraqi products being smuggled out, there is no case against Jordan as far as the international sanctions are concerned.

Only U.N.-approved goods are being allowed to enter Iraq through Jordan and Jordanian exporters must obtain special U.N. Security Council permission to ship local products.

Quite simply, Jordan has in place a strict regime of control that is effective as can be on all trade to Iraq through this country. As for food and medicine, the U.N. itself has exempted them from the sanctions. We cannot therefore deprive Iraql people of medicine or food or accept to be instrumental in starving our Arab neighbours or denying them medicine.

Jordan's case is strongest when it makes a distinction between Iraq and its people on one hand and its regime on the other. We cannot accept the destruction of Iraq and its people for the sake of changing a regime in Baghdad. The current political structure in Iraq is temporary when viewed in a historical context. Iraq and its people are permanent in historical dimensions. We must keep in focus this distinction when we articulate or adopt policies on our eastern ueighbour, and our friends and allies must show more sensitivity to Jordan's dilemma in this vein. Jordan has been and still is the heartland of Arabism and cannot be expected to betray its long-standing ideals and aspirations for some transient considerations.

#### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Saturday attacked the Libyao leadership for expelling Palestiniaes from Libya where they contributed to the construction of that country over the past decades. Tareq Masarweh said that the expulsion was tantamount to the policy of "transfer" adopted and implemented by Israel to evict the Palestioians from their hnmeland and settle them in the desert. By expelling the Palestinians for no reason. Muammar Qadhafi is following in the footsteps of thuse Arah leaders who hrag ahnut their support for the Palestinian cause hut in deed find the slightest pretext to persecute the Palestinian penple, said the writer. Citing the example of the Shiite militias attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Lehannn, the writer said that Libya is committing a similar crime and finding the excuse of opposing the Calestine Liheration Organisation's policies to carry out its plot.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour criticised the United Nations Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA) for its decision to close the educational sciences college and sacking its dean, saying that the move was in contradiction with the agency's own objectives of providing cocial and educational and health services to

, e. 3

Palestinian refugees. While the agency continues to make excuses for its gradual reduction of these services, it continues to employ an army of foreigners whose combined salaries d other fringe benefits far exceed the allocations for the refugees themselves, said Mohammad Kawash.

#### Women and China magic of Beijing '95

By Salwa El Taber

TEASING ME in his typically adolescent manner. my son asked: "Could it be 'divine justice' that situated the women's conference in Beijing?" After all, wasn't it originally meant as an expiation for the Tiananmen Square shootings"? 1 cursed the day I put TIME and NEWSWEEK nn his desk, but the fact remained that the news were far from reassuring: A week before our departure for China, nur visas were nnt yet ready; we had been confined by the Chinese government tn Huairou, an area 47 kilometres, away from Beijing and lacking the most basic facilities. Things seemed to be getting out of hand: the forum had grown so fast and so large that 40,000 women prepared to march down together from all four corners of the world carrying their multifarious agendas tn the small village hidden

As it turned out, our wnrst fears materialised. Was it the fact that we were unprepared and unoriented, or were we simply guilty of overamhition and idealism? The fact is that, as soon as I landed in the great republic I remem-bered Rex Harrison (in My Fair Lady) singing the glories of women: Suspicious, exacting, interfering and nverhearing; disagreeable and disagreeing? Wilful, belligerent, trivial, insensitive... in his own words: A damn nuisance.

Of course, sexism had not yet become a household word then, and Pygmalion could get away with any avalanche nf attributes. But, landing in the great republic, I suddenly wondered: did the world somebow weave a "Beijing con-

Cultural shock? I had always thought social scientists coined the expression for the sole purpose of annoying us. But, landing in this huge constricting maze where men and women in uniform tried to strip us of papers they had sent us themselves, where everyone constantly kept having to go to his superior," where our movements were so closely watched l sometimes wandered if my shower was bugged, I very

humhly pleaded ignorance. Having started to travel very young, I bad always considered the whole world my domain. Everywhere was home. But I realise now how limited my "world" had been: Europe and America; the West, with whom we had had centuries of love/hate relationships, and constant contact and exchange, even in conflict. The great republic was a

different matter. We had

not watched its films avidly for years, we did not know its tunes hy heart. Here, all clues seemed to vanish, all means of communications seemed tn hreak dnwn. Finally coming across the sign: "Post office-bank" did not necessarily mean there any activity going on in the room; using carbon paper in work through 30 slips of papers did not guarantee any copies underneath. Huairou's "husiness centres" neither knew nnr cared about the difference between English and the Morse-code. "International," rescue wards like "doctor," "pulice." restaurant." "toilet"... rang absolutely no bell with the pnpulace. One Chinese went as far as telling me: "I know "taxi" in Chinese, hut I don't know it in English." Then there is the neverending paper work and the sacrosanct nature or every slip. Trying to get a cash refund from a hostel. I was told that one of six papers handed to me upon arrival (4 a.m. in the morning after a two-day plane trip) was missing. Trying to keep my cool — a rather difficult exercise when ynu're tired. misunderstood and in hurry, I tried to rescue my mnney by saying: "You know me personally; you possess all the necessary information; can't you act?"

I leave it up to the reader to decide whether this man. who was working a 16-hour shift, made any sense of my proclamation. But take this as a truism: lose a particular paper in China, and you might end up sleeping nn the pavement.

As for sign language, please forget it. It does not come in handy. And I mean any sign language. The Chinese will not play char-

ade with your or strain to try and understand you. They will most often close np, shut you out, sometime waving you away with their hand, and retreat in their well-guarded shell. Now that I have some hindsight (as well as more food in my stomach and more sense in my head), I am sorry it took me so long to realise that this "curtain down" policy did not spring out of hostility, hut rather out of a great sense of helplessness, and a deep-rooted fear of the nn-

familiar.

For, once a Chinese decides to like you better, to trust you, he will go nut of his way for you. The country has a way of slowly hut. surely growing on you. The local production has quality and style, at very affordable prices. Your person and your belongings are safe at any time, anywhere. Where else in the world can you ride a taxi alnne on a highway at 10 p.m. without fear. without having to call a taxi office, a mini-cah nr at least have the registration num-ber recorded? Where else dn you get immediately reimhursed if you overpay? Where else do they open their ribbon-closed restaurant at night and start cooking all nver again espe-cially for ynu? Where else are people so civilised that if you happen to lose your temper, they never answer you back? They might fume under their breath. I had no way of checking that, hut not once did I get a resentful or disrespectful look or grunt from a Chinese. And. if they ever happen to argue amongst themselves, their tones remain measured, state-controlled, for sure,

hut most especially, self-controlled. And so it was that the change started to bappen, in us, in them. The most haffling entity we had ever come across was beginning to take shape and form. What had struck us first as infuriating; frustrating. stifling and overwhelming (Rex Harrison, here I come!) started to look reg-imented, nf course, hut with peeping laxity; closed, expressionless faces began to smile more readily, and, beyond the rigidity that met us, seeped the unparalleled grace that only they knew how to exhibit.

As for the forum itself, there were great discrepancies between workshops, both in content and in management. The Americans as a whole were the most organised, hut the most selfcentred. The South-East Asians, the most aware, creative and effective, the Africans the most helpless and the Scandinavians the most isolated. We Arabs will have to get feedback on our performance, hut realistic self-assessment is imperative. The activities around the workshops, of course, mattered just as much: the side-discussions, the lobbying, the regional meetings, the manifestations, the demonstrations, husiness cards, personal gifts, sidewalk national products quickly changed hands. But one form of communication, . the most silent of all was heard above all shnuts and reached beyond all

Pamphlets. These were the hanners waven by wnmen in rural and urban areas all over the planct, entrusting their toil and their art tn carry their aspirations to the forum. They were carried around collectively hy women, spnntaneously relieving each other, enfolding the area in an ever-widening circle of love where - for a brief interval - all natinnalines seemed to melt.

Now, don't ask me why booth 38 sat next to booth 6 on the conference site: don't ask me why we often ran twn miles tn wnrkshnps whose sponsors never showed up nnr apolngised. But do ask me, if you will, hnw 40,000 women descended suddenly upon this tranquil anthill and worked their way through the harbed wire of some of the most intricate, involved and traumatic topics of the 21st century. (And, at the rate of crisis-resolution, of the third millenium). A certain equation must hold the secret: determinatinn, selfrespect, mutual support, awareness, alertness, sensitivity, intuition; knowledge and, of course, relentless efforts. And so it was that the combination between women and China made for the magic that history will record as Beijing 95. Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

# Foreign investments in lieu of grants means no peace dividend

IN THEIR pronouncements and talks with Jordan, representatives of Western countries, especially the United States of America, concentrate on the importance and potential of their private sector investments following peace. The reason behind this talk is to avoid living up to their explicit and implicit commirments and promises to us that peace will hear economic dividends which the man in the street will feel. The present verbal promotion nf foreign investments is meant to replace direct financial grants which are hadly needed to make the henefits of peace felt hy the

Fnreign spokesmen, especially the Americans, preach to us day and night ahout the importance of improving the investment climate as a justification of the fact that their. private sectors are not forthcoming when it comes to investment in Jordan. The end result is that we remain without investments from foreign private sectors and without grants from foreign governments; in other words, we remain without peace dividends.

The main disappointment is, of coorse, directed at America, the self-appointed sponsor of the peace process. We are made to believe that there is near civil war io Washington between the administration, which is eager to belp us, and the Congress, which has a single-minded objective: namely to redoce the deficit and balance the budget. It is of course, a fictitious war with no casualties except ourselves. In this respect, we should point out that the administration did not recommend any meaningful assistance to Jordan except for the write-off of debt, the collection of which was at best doubtful.

The crux of the problem, as we see it, is that the United States has been paying over \$5 billion annually to Israel and Egypt since their peace treaty was signed in 1979, and will continue to pay similar amounts in the future, irrespective of the drive to balance the budget. One should ask, then, why President Clinton

could not ask for more than \$7.2 million to help Jordan economically in its 1996 budget. Is this token amount proportinnate to the weight of our contribution to peace as he sees

Excuses we hear should he dismissed as not convincing. The balancing of the budget hecomes irrelevant as soon as \$13 hillion are allocated to foreign aid. Assuming that Israel is a special case, what is applicable to Egypt should be applicable to Jordan. If some parties to peace, such as Egypt, deserve to he assisted, we shoold be told why such assistance could not be extended to Jordan and why onr share should be no more than some advice regarding the importance of foreigo investments and improving the climate of investments.

We would be deceiving ourselves if we believed for a moment that the Amman ecocomic summit and conference scheduled for late next month would secure for Jordan investments which would improve the quality of life, raise the standard of living, alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment. People do not survive on impressive speeches, intellectnal dialogue and receptions during summits. Most of our iofastructural projects. oeed public sector funds because they do not appeal to the private sector, he it domestic or foreign. The only source for such funds is foreign grants. Borrowing is out of the question because we are already overburdened with debt. Domestic savings are very shallow, and the level of taxes has reached ao upper limit.

Let us, then, call a spade a spade. America' has misled us and let us down. It treats us as an ally, hut one that is taken 'for granted; and not only that. As an ally, America took the liberty of pressuring us to take action against Iraq which may cost us over \$1 billion a year, or a full 17 per cent of our gross domestic product (GDP), without anybody in the State Department losing sleep.

#### Russia's sympathy for Serbia damages relations with West

By Deborah Seward The Associated Press

MOSCOW - The NATO hombing of the Bosnlan Serbs has aroused the Russian bear to anger like no other issues since the end of the cold war, stirring suspicion and antagonism towards

the West. Russian officials have condemned the bombing campaign as genocide, lawmakers have volunteered to act as "human shields," and the public, usually apathetic about political issues, has come out against the airstrikes.

At the heart of Russia's emotional response to the fate of the Serbs is deep dismay over its perceived loss of great power status and a feeling NATO is intruding on what Russia historically considered its sphere of influence.

Moch of Russia's anger also stems from a feeling its proposals to end the war have been totally ignored and frus-tration at the failure of its

own diplomacy. Russia has few strategic interests in the Balkans. But it 'does have a historical attachment to the region that dates hack hundreds of years and has sought to restore cultural and religious links to the Bosnian Serbs that suf-

fered during the cold war.

The bombing appears to have pushed Russia — already deeply concerned by NATO's plans to expand eastwards — over the edge.

The singuistics movide Russians and the cold of The airstrikes provide Russians a way, at least verbally, to beat up on the West. "Russia is pushed to the side, is not allowed to fully

participate in Balkan affairs. and that encroaches nn its great power status," wrote Literaturnaya Gazeta, using capital letters to emphasise its dismay.
"You can understand that the United States always

wants to be oumber one in the world," the newspaper

wrote. They have a lnt of mooey and we're flat broke." Some Russian media have suggested the CIA was actually behind the bombing of the Sarajevo marketolace last month that led to the bomhings, and insinuated that NATO has conspired with the U.N. behind Rus-

President Boris Yeltsin and his unpopular government have tried to cash in on public outrage over the bombing. which has been widely condemued hy parliament, the pub-

sia's back.

lic and even Mr. Yeltsin's

"NATO in fact I parted from the search for a political settlement of the problem and staked itself on the use of force," former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said this week in a statement. This is an evil path leading to the past, to nowhere.

But Mr. Gorbachev, no friend of Mr. Yeltsin, also criticised the Russian leadership for its emotional response to the bombings, saying they were not helping the situation.

Mr. Yeltsin's beated attack on NATO at a news conference last week is echoed by his countrymen. In a poll of 1989 Musco-

vites last week, 62.3 per cent of respondents condemned the airstrikes. Nearly one-third said NATO was an enemy organisation. The poll, conducted by Mnenie Opinion Research Service, had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 per cent. "It's bad. They are des-

troying a whole nation," Igor Leonov, a young Russian salesman said. "NATO is not God to decide who lives and

Mr. Leonov and other Russians, who like the Serbs are Orthodox Christians and Slavs, believe their country should help the Serbs. But few people seem to believe Russia is in a position to provide military aid.

"We should help the Serbs. We are nne faith. They are Slavs too. How to belp is difficult," Mr. Leonov said. "I don't think we should get involved in war because we don't have the strength to

"With our poverty, how could we possibly help?" asked Vladimir Tabachnikov, a Russian businessman.

The communist newspaper Pravda published a story Thursday on Bosnia headlined, "Today Serbia, tomorrow Russia." Apart from bumanitarian

aid and waves of emotional rhetoric, it seems there is little financially strapped Russia could do to help. The Russian military is in

shambles and after its abysmal performance in Chechnya. And even on the diplomatic front, despite expressions of brotherhood, the Bosnian Serbs have listened but never really followed Russian recommendations on

#### LETTERS

Wrong side of tourism To the Editor:

RECENTLY I went on a trip to Agaba with some friends. There was the usual four-hour-long bus ride and, of course, the short stop for refreshments. This is got the "inspiration" to write this letter.

As I stood in the usual, pushy crowd eround the cashier I saw a confused old man who was obviously a foreigner, trying to sort out a handful of coins. Then, triumphantly reaching the cashier, he asked for an icecream stick, which, to my surprise, the man at the cash asked 750 fils for. I know that tourist places like this were e bit more

expensive, but 450 fils more, that was absurd.

I finally realised there was something really wrong when an American woman paid JD 1 for a Pepsi I had just paid 350 fils for and another women, who had no dinars, ended up paying \$2 for.

My friend and I asked the man how much each of the mentioned Items cost (in Arabic of course) and he said 350 fils for each. As another lady willingly paid her dues, we asked the man at the cash if he though, it was wrong. His answer was: "For these people, no." He then gave us a hostile look and asked us to leave.

We followed the poor women out and told them to be careful, explaining whet had just heppened. They said that when they were told they did not have to change their dollers into dinars they knew they were going to be ripped off.

We only wonder why one would still want to be e tourist in Jordan.

Tamara Faouri,

## 'Educate, practise and enforce'

To the Editor:

WHY ALL this nuisance day after day about Inrdanian driving habits? As a foreigner, I am loathe to criticise our hosts whom I admire and respect greatly. But if there is one sure way to raise blood pressure and start expletives flowing, it is driving in Jordan. (Without wishing to belittle the excellent article "Why neglect a major killer?" (Jordan Times, Sept. 11) which discussed the causes of heart attacks, perhaps it should have, along with smnking and mansaf, included driving habits).

As with nther environmental and health issues, the answer lies in education through schools, media and driving establishments. All people must be educated in road safety. (I will not now begin to talk about children playing and people walking in the middle of the roads, which would

raise many other issues). Drivers should be trained and rigorously tested in their knowledge and application of a comprehensive and up-to-date highway code before being granted a licence. In addition, the highway police, (whn currently may be found in low speed zones, lurking around corners or hiding uoder bridges or alternatively bringing the traffic to a standstill on majnr roundabouts) must also he educated to enforce the code which has been laid down.

In conclusion, we do not need to psychoanalyse society and its morals. We need to educate, practise and enforce.

> Sheila Puri, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, bowever, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

#### King: Jordan's policy is consistent

(Continued from page 1)

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refuge here.
"The fact that (General Kamel) came here testifies to with Iraq and to this country's credibility," he said.

"Were we supposed to get upset had he gone to another Arab country? It is really an opeo questioo wby Jordan was subjected to criticism (over the defection). But it is a fact that those who are accusing us of interfering in others' internal affairs are themselves those who excelled in this business."

In reply to a remark that some Arab countries may be trying to marginalise Jordan's regional role the King said: Our role is much greater than our size as a state and we are known to be honest and say what is right." He stressed that Jordan is not after forming axes in the re-gion but rather aims at integration and cooperation with all Arabs.

Asked to comment on meetings between Syria and Iran, and Syria, and Egypt, in the wake of the defection of General Kamel, the King said he would rather decline comment on such contacts

and their aims. The King dismissed talk of pressure being exerted on Jordan, following the defection, to join an anti-Saddam coalition, saying there has not been and there will not be pressures against Jordan. We will not succumb to pressure from any quarter," he said. "We follow our convictions, and in any way exaggeration in accusing others of exercising pressures on us undermines our belief in ourselves and touches our credibility. We have never given to pressure, even in the most difficult of circumst-

In a reply to a question on what Jordan could do to help the Iraqis, short of interfering in Iraq's internal affairs, the King said: "I do not have a magic solution. But the least we could do is to shed light on what is happening inside the country.

The King said that even his repeated calls for dialogue to settle the traq problem beginning with pinpointing what. the root cause of the problem seemed to have been deliber-

ately misinterpreted. He recalled that "we needed to know, especially the influential powers, about Iraq. Does the problem lie with the regime with Iraq?"

If such a call, he said, can be interpreted as "interference in the internal affairs of

Iraq, we ought to know."
The King cited the example of Haiti, where the regime was removed witbout bloodshed and violence despite a massive initial U.N. military effort, and noted that political dialogue had ended the problem rather than military moves.

"We have called for dialogue and contacts, and we gave the example of Haiti, of bow the U.N. mobilised arms. and expressed readiness tosave democracy or bring about its rebirth.

"In the last minute political figures were asked to mediate with the officials in Haiti, with the result that the operation was carried out without bloodshed. What about the people of Iraq in such a

"We have never stopped for a moment during all these years in defending Iraq and its right to life," said the King. However, he noted, Iraq's credibility itself bas been brought to question.

"Naturally there were factors which affected Iraq's cre-Jordan's long-term bonds dibility," said the King. "If we consider the weapons of mass destruction for instance, (we find that) Iraq used to say that it did not possess a certain weapon or that it did not develop weapons, then it changes its position.'

On the Jordanian-Israeli

peace treaty, the King rejected assertions that it had set back democracy in Jordan. On the contrary, the King noted, the peace treaty went through the Jordanian constitutional and democratic process and was endorsed by the Kingdom's elected parliament before it took effect. As such, the entire process had added strength to democracy io Jordan, he said, also point-ing out that Jordan's very decision to join the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid came after a cational conference endorsed the move.

"Peace oever posed an obstacle to democracy," the King said.

The King spoke about the expulsion of Egyptiao and Palestinian workers from Libya as an example of the deteriorating state of affairs io Arab relations. He said that the Palestinians wbo have been expelled are oow stranded in the desert and out at sea, with no Arab country willing to give them refuge. "We canoot change our stand regarding our commitments to the Arab Natioo just as we caonot conspire against others because this is not our policy. We have been affected by all the developments and the dangers that have faced our nation. If there is no value to the Arab person this would lead to explosions throughout the Arab' World," the King said.

His Majesty said be expected relations with Saudi Arabia to improve further. 'Jordan's relations with the Gulf states are going in the right direction and we bope to receive the Saudi ambassador soon while a summit meeting (with King Fahd) could be held at a later stage. Such meeting will remove all the barmful elements that have adversely affected Arab relations," the King said.

In reply to another question concerning the meetings held in Amn question of displaced Palestioians and their repatriation, the Monarch said that delay in settling the question of repatriating them was due to a variety of reasons. "I pushed for a solution and will continue to do so," he said.

Referring to internal affairs the Kiog said that the Kingdom was now preparing for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) eco-nomic summit, "which we bope will contribote to the development of the wbole region and not Jordan alone. We hope that this conference will help bring about a major benefit for the future generations. I am very optimistic about the outcome of the conference."

Referring to the perform-ance of Parliament, the King voiced his satisfaction io general, noting in particular that Parliament bas been dealing promptly with newlaws. He also expressed satisfaction with the close cooperatioo among the executive, legislative and judicial au-

King Hussein said he was keen oo keeping the media m the picture with regards to political developments but that the journalists also had

responsibilities to shoulder. "I frankly wish from my brothers bere to seek out the truth through their own channels as true journalists and also to realise the great role which Jordan is playing. You should realise that our sole aim is to offer service to the Arab Nation and to set a

good example to others."
The King added: "May I frankly point out that at the media level we have been constantly losing battles as a result of coofusioo which characterises our attitude though I personally and every state official are close to you. I hope that you will exert more efforts so as to rise to the required level and carry out your duties."

#### Israel, PLO in intense push

(Continued from page 1) However, serious sticking points remain and a senior Israeli defence ministry spokesman did not rule out yet another missed deadline m the next phase of self-rule.

Israeli military radio said Mr. Peres would present Mr. Arafat with a compromise proposal he drew up with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Chief-of-Staff Amnon Shahak and chief Israeli oegotiator Uri Savir. Under the plan, the Israeli

army and police would keep ultimate control of security in the town but give greater powers to the Palestinian police wbo would be responsible for security in Palestinian areas of Hebron. The PLO bas insisted that any Israeli presence must be

severely limited in both numbers and time.

The Palestinians also want to set down the exact bound-

aries of areas to remain initially under Israeli control. such as military bases and Jewish settlements, so they

are not allowed to expand. Another stumbling-block is Israel's refusal to set free immediately the Palestinians held in its jails.

Mr. Peres said he would ask the PLO leader for 'guarantees that the auton-Omous areas will not be allowed to turn into safe havens for terrorists on the

"It doesn't matter whether terrorists are in prison in Israel or in the autonomous zones, as long as they are jailed for the crimes they have committed against Israelis," he said. Israel said meanwhile, it

arrested three Palestinians for the murder of a Palestinian man in the West Bank whose killing had been claimed by an extremist Jew-

ish group.
The police serious crimes unit and the (West Bank) police in conjunction with the GSS (General Security Service) and the army have uncovered the perpetrators of the murder of Salman Zamari in Halhoul." a police spokesman said.

Three men, all residents of the West Bank town, were arrested and a fourth suspect whose identity was known to police was being sought, be

The murder was apparently committed on a criminal background and some of the suspects were cooperating with police, he added.

Following the killing last week an Israeli extremist group named Eyal said it shot dead Zamari, 25, at his home in Halhoul, near Hebron. Palestinian sources said a group of masked men in Israeli army uniforms who spoke Hebrew killed Zamari.

#### Parties are a must - leaders

(Continued from page 12)

we continue this way, the democratisation experience will be in danger in the future," he said, noting that it does not serve the interests of Arab "despots" to have a democratic model in Jordan.

"Those claiming democracy in the Western world want it for their people, not for us, because they know their in-terests will be harmed by the success of democracy in our countries," Mr. Kbreisha concluded.

Al Watan (homeland) Party Secretary General Bahjat Al Majali dealt with obstacles facing political parties in Jordan, whether those posed by the government, by citizens or by political parties them-

"I am pained to say that if selves, in addition to recent regional and international developments.

> Mr. Majali said the government was not serious in dealing with political parties. adding that it does not consult them in any matter of national interest.

> He said the government harasses some political party members and does not allow them the chance to use the mass media to express their

Mr. Majali admitted that the Jordanian political parties were still novice and suffering from financial problems and are unable to draft convincing platforms to deal with national problems.

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#### Serbs tardy; NATO alert

#### (Continued from page 1)

ernment troops had overrun the town of Kljuc, encircled Bosnaski Krupa and were, marching on Sanski Most. Serb authorities in the northern town of Banja Luka reported that Croat forces

were also closing on Kljuc and Mrkonjic Grad and that government troops were continoing attacks in the Mount Ozren region. U.N. officials reported between 10,000 and 15,000 Serb

refugees in Banja Luka, the north-central Serb stronghold, with around 40,000 more on the road, fleeing offensives by government ficant gains" to the West, troops or Bosnian Croat milialong the Croatian border. troops or Bosnian Croat mili-

Some people slept in the open, despite rain. Refugees to go to other towns, panicked that they also might fall.

"The situation in Banja Luka is very difficult and chaotic," said Alemka Lisinski, a U.N. refugee agency spokeswoman in Zagreb, Croatia. "There are people with cars, horse carts, sheep herds and tractors in every street, making Banja Luka one huge traffic jam."

Bosnian radio said that government troops on Saturday entered Kljuc, less than 50 kilometres southwest of Banja Luka.

Mr. Gunness, the U.N. spokesman, said there were unconfirmed reports that Serbs had slaoghtered Muslim villagers in the Donji Vakuf area

Donji Vakuf, about 80 kilometres southwest of Sarajevo, is one of the towns recently retaken from the Serbs by government forces taking advaotage of the NATO airstrikes. Mr. Gunness said they and the Bosnian Croats bad made "signi-

The gains have brought Serb-controlled territory down to about 58 per cent of ignored pleas by authorities the country, according to new intelligence reports cited by another U.N. official in

Sarajevo. Capturing Kljuc and the rest of the road to Jajce, 40 kilometres to the soutbeast. would bring a decent paved road between the northwest Bibac enclave and most government-held territory in central Bosnia onder the control of the Sarajevo regime.

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# **Bank of Lebanon to** continue defending lira

central bank will continue its policy of defending the Lebanese lira on the Beirut foreign exchange market. Bank of Lebanon governor. Riad Salameh was quoted Saturday as saying.

'The bank will stay in the foreign exchange market to defend the Lebanese lira's exchange rate," As Safir daily quoted Mr. Salameb as saying at a meeting Friday with officials of Lebanon's Banks Association grouping Beirut's 82 banks.

Mr. Salameh's remark came a day after a grouping of Lebanese businessmen said in a report that the bank should stop intervening reg-ularly on the foreign exchange market as soon as possible to allow for a real market to

The Bank of Lebanon often intervenes on the market selling U.S. dollars to defend the lira, especially in times of polincal crisis which usually witness a flight from the local to the American

The policy of defending the lira depleted the central bank's net foreign exchange reserves by more than \$1 billion between January and

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's depleting the bank's reserves, Mr. Salameh replied:

"I am not afraid of more defence of the lira if the 1996 public budget comes out as it should come out, especially as there will be remittances (from abroad) that have begun to flow again."

Mr. Salameh said there was an agreement with the ministry of finance on lowering all items in the 1996 budget draft "so that the deficit would not exceed 40 per cent for any reason."

He said he was relieved for the disappearance of selling pressure on the lira witnessed recently. The run was caused by a political crisis between Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri that was solved last week.

In a second step to boost the lira, Mr. Salameh said he was in contact with the ministries of finance, and economy and trade, to take measures forcing merchants to use the local currency in transac-

Meanwhile, Mr. Hariri has responded to criticism of his ambitious plan to rebuild post-war Lebanon by saying that the project's benefits will be felt gradually.

"I stress that the yield of Asked about the usefulness most projects we have begun of such a policy that was to build will appear gradual- Mr. Hariri added.

ly." Mr. Hariri was quoted by local newspapers as telling a delegation of Beirut dignitar-

"We are concentrating on everything that will reactivate the economic situation and consolidate it, and this includes looking after local in-dustry to raise production and establishing industrial free zones and free zones in all areas," he added.

The Lebanese Business men's Association (LBA) Friday slammed Mr. Hariri's Horizon Plan, which will cost up to \$18 billion over 12 years, saying it was too extra-vagant and should be cut

The plan to rebuild after

the ravages of the 1975-90 civil war was not sufficient to boost the economy without an accompanying economic and social programme, LBA Mr. Hariri, responding to

LBA warnings of a worsening balance of payments and trade deficits as well as depending debt, said the Lebanese economy was growing at a good rate. Measures implemented by the two governments he headed since first coming to

power in October 1992 were

giving positive results that

# Economic targets set for easing women's poverty

BEIJING (AFP) - The Platform for Action adopted by U.N. states here Friday paints a distressing tableau of poverty afflicting hundreds of millions of women, and calls for a two-pronged effort to

ease their plight.
"More than one billion people in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in unacceptable conditions of poverty. mostly in the developing countries," it says.

"In the past decade, the number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men... the feminisation of poverty has also recently become a significant problem in the countries with economies transition," it

While admitting that poverty is a "complex, multidimensional problem," the document calls for macroeconomic efforts to ease structural deficiencies, such as debt — but also for work at the grass-roots, such as financing for small enterprises run by women.

the big multilateral aid agencies, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, but also from national governments and the private sector, for projects that target women in poverty. No figures are specified.

 That wealthy countries carry out "the immediate implementation" of the 1994 Paris Club agreements which provide for debt forgiveness or reduction for poorer countries. That the industrialised world, "develop techniques" to convert debt repayments into specific projects for poorer women.

 That poorer countries pursue "sound and stable macro-economic and sectoral policies... (that | encourage broad-based sustained economic growth." Those groups vulnerable to the impact of tough policies should be given help.

- That legal and administrative hurdles that block women in some countries from owning or inheriting land or gaining access to credit be removed.

## Sudan's labour chief appeals for better wages for workers

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) - The head of Sudan's trade unions federation has appealed for the government to improve workers' salaries to help them cope with rising food prices.

The appeal by Al Sir Hassan Abdoun came as calm returned to Khartoum after days of anti-government riot-

Deepening economic problems in Sudan may have contributed to the unrest.

Consumer prices bave been rising at a 58 per cent annual rate, and in recent weeks there have been shortages of bread. a staple in the Sudanese diet. Mr. Abdoun said workers'

salaries had not kept pace with prices, which have risen sharply since 1992 when the government of Lieutenant General Omar El Bashir began to try to liberalise the economy. Under his economic re-

form programme, a number of government-owned companies have been sold and the prices of an increasing numbeen left to the marketplace.

ber of commodities have But the reform efforts have been hurt by a lack of help

from outside. Sudan is getting no aid from world institutions like the International Monetary Fund because it failed to pay past debts. And Western nations, which bave been critical of Sudan's human rights record, have cut all but emergency

Mr. Abdoun called for "liberalising salaries and wages so that they will match prices liberalisations and. herefore, guarantee a decent life for workers."

Salaries average about 10,000 Sudanese pounds (\$17) per month in Khar-

In the past two weeks, the price of traditional Arab bread has risen to 30 pounds (5 cents) from 20 pounds (3.5 cents) and the government is expected to announce a further increase this week.

The government blames higher prices for wheat purchased on the international market, in some cases up 40 per cent.

Most families subsist on vegetables, fruits, bread and various grains. Meat at 1,000 pounds (\$1.7) is out of reach for most people.

World Bank: \$1.5 trillion needed for Asian infrastructure

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Developing countries in Asia will need to invest \$1.2 to \$1.5 trillion infrastructure over the next decade, according to a World Bank report. China represents 51 per cent of those needs, followed by Korea (18 per cent), Indonesia (11 per cent). Thailand (III per cent). Malaysia and the Philippines (three per cent), according to the report "Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific: Toward a New Public-Private Partnership. The invest-ment input is needed to sustain economic growth, made up for inadequate past invesiment, and cope with massive urbanisation and the globalisation of world trade. The report said the public sector had neither the resources nor the organisational capacity to come up with the massive investment needed - and that the private sector would have to pick up the slack. Private infrastructure has paid off, the report said, in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines in such areas as telecommunications, energy and toll roads.

# Turkey hikes consumer charge to curb inflation

ANKARA (R) — Turkey raised charges imposed on consumer credits Friday, pushing ahead with a 10-day drive to cool the economy and restrain inflation.

A resource utilisation and support fund charge on consumer credits rose by four percentage points to 10 per

The credit tightening, designed to curb domestic demand and slow economic growth, is one of the measures taken in line with International Monetary Fund (IMF) advice since. Sept. 5. The Turkish central bank

has stopped purchasing foreign currency from banks and increased overnight borrowing rates on the lira inter-The Turkish lira has

appreciated by 1.5 per cent against a currency basket. made up of one dollar and 1.5 marks, since Sept. 4.

The IMF recommendation

follows Turkey's gross national product (GNP) showing a big 12.4 per cent increase in the second quarter of 1995, following a 6,1 per cent contraction in 1994 and 0.3 per cent fall in the

first quarter of this year. Monthly inflation remained above expectations in the June-August period when the central bank, urged by exporters, let the lira depreci-

The bank, trying to halt excessive liquidity injection into the economy through short-term foreign capital inflow, has also imposed a six per cent charge on banks' foreign borrowing deals.

Attractive margins between high domestic interest rates and relatively lower depreciation created a firm ground for an increased short-term foreign capital in-

"It was not the right time to brake the economy,'

Orhan Emirdag, general manager of private Pamukbank told Reuters.

He said he believed there was no reason to worry about inflation, which slowed to 80.3 per cent in August from high of 156 per cent in January

But treasury chief Ayfer Yilmaz said: "Such measures are taken in every country which implements tight monetary policy."
She told reporters the ma-

jor aim of the operation was to reduce inflation which had already exceeded the yearon-year 1995 target of 40 per

The 1995 GNP growth may also overshoot the target of per cent. Econo pect the growth rate to hit six per cent. "Markets have received

signals of the tight monetary policy. They will reach a ba-lance soon. Mr. Yilmaz

#### Its main recommendations: Iran beats currency crisis but

DUBAI (R) — Iran has weathered a crisis of confidence in its currency but now faces a key credibility test in its ability to repay huge foreion debts over the next year,

diplomats say.

The Iranian riyal's value against the dollar has recovered since May when the government, facing a curren-cy crisis fuelled by U.S. President Bill Clinton's announcement of trade sancrions against Iran, reasserted strin-gent control over currency dealing and capital flows out of the country.

Diplomats say Tehran stopped the run oo the riyal. which threatened to take monthly double digit inflation to even more uncomfortable levels, by arresting unofficial exchange dealers and beefing up border controls.

"A feeling that everything was out of control is now

THE BETTER HALF,

over... some peace bas been restored," a Western diplomat in the Iranian capital

Diplomats and bankers in Tehran said Iran has to pay the principal and interest of rescheduled debts amounting to between \$5 billion and \$6 billion in 1996, oearly balf of its budgeted oil revenues.

Iran's ability to attract fresh international funding to finance its 1995-2000 development plan, the continuation of a reform programme started by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, will hinge oo repayment per-formance next year, diplo-

Although a black market for riyals still exists at about 4,000 to the dollar, above the official central bank (markazi) rate of 3,000-3,015 to the dollar, it is far off the rate of 7,000 riyals seen at the beight

By Glasbergen

GLASSERGEN

of May's corrency break-

"Prices are being controlled. Prices are not going down but a monthly inflation rate as bigh as 20 per cent is being cut," said Fariborz Raisdana, senior researcher at the Higher Research Institute for Ecocomy and Industry in

Foreign creditors are watching state control of inflation through the rival and also a policy of restricting imports to keep foreign exchange to meet international

Though Iran has oil exports of 2.5 million barrels

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high debts loom per day (b/d) - second only to those of Saudi Arabia nearly balf of the budgeted \$13.5 billioo oil revenue will bave to be diverted to debt repayment.

Iranian officials hope oonoil export revenue of \$4.5 billion io the last Iranian year (March 1994-March 1995) will grow this year despite new rules that forces most non-oil exporters to purchase hard currency at the new 3,000 riyal-dollar rate and repatriate all hard currency earnings to the central bank.

"Non-oil exports have been hit by the new rules and industry does not bave

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

WHAT THE CAB

DRIVER TURNED

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise enswer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon.

(Answers temorrow)

enough raw materials because of the import clampdown," a diplomat adding that the Iraniao economy needed structural reform.

Even though oil earnings are currently above budget doubts loom over the outlook for 1996 revenues by talk in OPEC circles the group will not be able to raise its quotas next year because of increased production in non-OPEC countries such as Nor-

Economists are also forecasting a two per cent fall in fran's GDP this year, which would make it one of the 1 worst economic performers in the Middle East.

#### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY. SEPTEMBER 17, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have many fine ideas which can bring you closer to your goals today, so utilise them to your best advantage.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Meditate for a while to-day and let your huncbes rise to the surface and you will know what is best to do later

Ionight. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Some worldly situation may arise which can please you very much today. Turn it to your greatest advantage. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to organise your tasks for later today so that you can get excellent results for you to

succeed. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Expand in activities during the daytime and be successful in whatever you are doing. Show more affection for your

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Sitting down with your family and discussing bow to have more accord for today and tonight is wise. Invite guests into your home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan whatever you want to do later today and discuss ideas with those who can be of assistance to SCORPIO: (October 23 to .

November 21) You have fine ideas how to improve your property and add to their value, especially if multiple properties. SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are

highly magnetic and can make a fine impression on others today. Schedule the new week's activities. CAPRICORN: (December 22

to January 20) Plan how to get better results in your chosen vocation. Show that you are thoughtful and kind towards those you come in

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be your gregarious self today and draw many a friend closer to you. Think and be happy and active towards good friends. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Wander idly about town today and you can gain many cherished wishes and

Birthstone of September: Sapphire - Lapis Lazuli

ties. Ask for favours.

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# THE Daily Crossword by Don Johnson



- 20 Lottery 23 Senator Kennedy 24 Snare 25 Harden: var. 27 Venomous
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- 40 Musical work 41 Good golf score 42 Words of understanding 43 Helper: abbr.

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Yesterday's puzzle solved:

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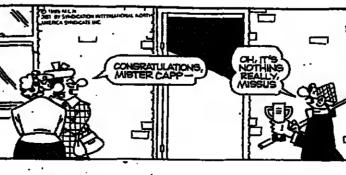
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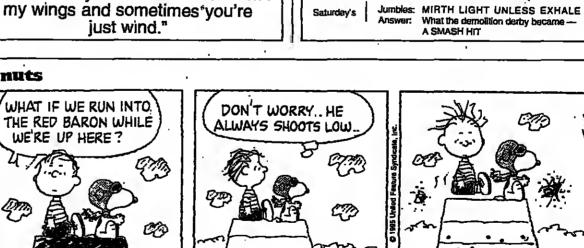
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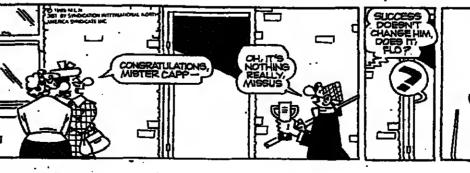


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A review of economic news from the Arabic press

#### Khatib reviews tourism problems and plans

**☆☆ TRAVEL AND tourism** 

offices will be required to submit a guarantee for at least JD 50,000 under new regulations being considered by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The minister of tourism, Abdul Elah Al Khatib, explained that increased violations by these offices and their failure to abide by the tourism programmes they promote have necessitated a reconsideration of the regulations governing the operations of traveel and tourism entities. The minister, answering questions put to him by members of the Philadelphia Lions Club, covered other areas related to tourism but exeluded the ear rental offices, which, he said, were presently operating on bases that have nothing to do with tourism. He described the car rental offices as a sector suffering for major deficiencies and called for organising this sector to operate on touristic basis at the level of limousine service. "At present car rental services are not directed only to tourism, and their current status does not permit classifying them in the tourism profession." Mr. Khatib said pointing out that this sector is the foremost problematic that carries security implications related to the Ministry of Interior. "The ministry is against transforming these offices to

Asked about complaints of not providing services and facilities to hotels in Petra. the minister said it was a mistake by the government and the private sector to build the hotels at their present sites. He indicated that the building of hotels in Petra was carried out in the absence of a comprehensive plan and that the government was mistaken to grant licences. He added that the hotels had harmed the antiquities in the city and pointed out that there was a big environmental problem affecting the hotels in Petra. "The government did not promise the hotel owners water, sewage system and transport facilities when it issued the licences to them," Mr. Khatib said, noting that some licences were obtained by "arm twisting." However, he said, the government was working to provide the hotels with water, electricity and other necessary infrastructure facilities.

a touristic category under the

present circumstances," he

Noting that the ministry has budgetted JD 500,000 this year for touristie prints and publications, Mr. Khatib called on tourism offices to print their own booklets or to participate with the ministry in this regard.

Mr. Khatib affirmed that. there was a consensus to admit deficiencies in the Jordanian tourism sector. "It impossible to transform Jordan into a Riviera in three months," he said pointing out that tourism difficulties in the Kingdom were societyrelated difficulties and not institutional-governmental. He stressed that there was no methodological tourism plan at present and no basic organisational designs for Petra although work on such designs is being carried out

Another hindrance. according to the minister. Charles of the control of the contro was the tourism legislation which does not help the official or the citizen. He said his Control of the second of the s ministry was being assisted by the World Tourism Organisation to upgrade the tourism legislation.

FSE T Section of the property Mr. Khatib revealed that the ministry has contracted a specialised international company to reclassify all hotels to keep up with interhational requirements (Al Aswaq).

## Costs drive car factories out of Germany

Mercedes-Benz has turned the harsh spotlight on costs and the rise of the mark hy announcing a hig investment in Brazil.

The decision by Mercedes-Benz to invest 6(X) million marks (\$408 million) in a new factory in Brazil is part of a trend among German car manufacturers to escape from high lahour costs in Germany and the strength of the mark.

"Made in Germany" has eome to mean that the product cannot compete against vehicles made elsewhere in Europe or the United States. The president of

Mercedes-Benz, Helmut Werner, said that the new Brazilian factory would produce 900,000 of the new A class model for the South American market. The company wanted to

increase the proportion of cars made abroad from 10 per cent to 25 per cent of the total within eight to 10 years, he

At the beginning of this year the company stirred controversy in Germany by deciding to build its new Smart car, developed with the Swiss Swatch watch companay, at Hamhach-Sarreguemines in France instead of in Ger-

The company said that labour at the plant in France cost less and was more flexible than in Germany.

"Made in Germany" is to become "Made in Mercedes" as a means of maintaining an image of high quality. German car manufacturers

have not yet transferred pro-

duction abroad on a massive scule but they talk readily of "globalisation" of production and sales. Volkswagen, the higgest European car manufacturer.

has opted instead to acquire foreign companies in difficulties such as Seat in Sapin or Skoda in the Czech Republic. The investment in Spain has run into severe financial

under way. On Wednesday the Commission of the European Union sought comments from industry and EU members states about Spanish public aid for a restructuring of the

problems and a rescue is

company BMW acquired the British Rover company in Murch

1994 and has decided to huild a new factory in the United

States. The president of the German federation of car manufacturers VDA. Erika Emmerich, said that the rise of the mark coupled with an increase of 4.0 per cent in pay in Germany this year, had "given new meaning to the risks attached to producing cars in German soil.

The German car industry sold 55 per cent of its production worth 123 hillion marks. ahroad in 1994 but when the mark rises, the price of German cars on export markets Mrs. Emmerich said that

she was worried ahout the effects of the trend to produce abroad becase in Germanyone joh in seven dependened directly or indirectly on the car industry. In Germanuv, average pay

in the industry in 1994 was 57 marks (\$39) per hour. This was nearly double the rate in France. Spain and Italy, the VDA said.

unions to increase the flex. Ceive higher pay."

He said laboratory tests on

the chicken served by KFC were carried out following

complaints from the public. Sandeep Kohli, managing

lem," he told reporters.

"MSG is an additive in

some of our products but it is

well below one per cent."

Mr. Kohli said, calling for

He said his company re-

and would go shead with

opening KFC outlets in Bom-

bay, New Delhi and other

Our Bangalore restaurant is

tremely hopeful of getting a

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independent tests.

ihility of working schedules Adam Opel A.G., a sub-sidiary of the U.S. company General Motors, recently reached such an agreement with its employees in what it said was the first arrangement of its type in the German car industry.

Under the arrangement, employees will work 30-38.75 hours per week over four ar five days in a way which will be adjusted to the amount of orders without affecting monthly pay.

On Tuesday Volkswagen agreed with the l.G. Metall union thut its staff may work up to 38.8 hours per week depending on orders.

A VW official said that an overall agreement was needed to permit an employee to work up to 6P hours per week if he wanted.

"Flexibility pays." he said.
"At BMW we have aholished work per particular task. Individual performance is now more important than presence at work and an em-German manufacturers are ployee doing more for the negotiating hard with trades, company, will logically re-

to either react or answer the

charges," he said, adding that

in doubt in the minds of the

seven millon customers we

"the health aspect was never

# Japan to lend Syria \$565m

DAMASCUS (R) - Japan agreed to grant Syria a \$565 million soft loan in talks between Japanese Prime Minister Tomiiehi Murayama and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Saturday,

a Japanese official said. The official said the 58.854 billion yen (\$565) loan was agreed to finance a thermal power plant project which would boast Syria's electricity generation capacity to meet demand increasing at 20 per

cent annually. He said the project, involving the construction of thermal generators able to run both on fuel oil and natural gas, would have a capacity of producing 600 megawatts. It would be located some 200 kilometres north of Damas-

The loan is the third to be extended by Japan to Syria. One loan amounting to 51.598 billion yen (\$495 million) was granted in 1991 and

AMMAN PINANCIAL MARKET

it financed a thermal power plant in central Syria. An earlier loan, amounting to 29.63 billion yen (\$284 million), financed an expansion plan at the Banias power plant on the Mediterranean in 1986.

The Japanese official said the Syrian government had been paying all its previous loan instalments but there were arrears on the private commercial sector amounting to around \$100 million.

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#### Kentucky Fried Chicken vows to stay on in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's first Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) outlet was ordered to close on health but the

grounds U.S. fast-food giant vowed to fight the move and insisted its fare was wholesome.

Municipal authorities in Gangalore ordered the closure of the KFC restaurant in the southern Indian city after tests found its "finger-licken"

Financial.

good" chicken contained double the allowable amount of monosodium glutamate, or

MSG.
"While the prescribed limit of MSG is one per cent, the KFC samples contained 2.8 per cent," said A. Ravindra of the Bangalore City Corporation. "So we have withdrawn the licence given to KFC and ordered the closure of the outlet."

**Jordan Times** 

Markets	Cairo Amman Bank	,
U.S. Dollar in le	ternational Markets	
Currency	New yerk Close Int 14/9/95	) Date
Sterling Pound	1.2474	1

Close 14/9/95	Close 15/9/95
1.5470	1.5500
1.4883	1.4883
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5,1265	5.1190
102.55	104.13
	1.2595
	1.5470

Сигтенку	MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5,62	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.43	6.43	6.43
Deutsche Mark	3.93	5.95	3.93	5.93
Swiss Franc	2.75	5.05	2.65	7.68
French Franc	5.63	5.63	5.60	5.55
Japanese Yen	0,57	0.57	0.37	0.43
European Currency Unit	5.43	5.38	5.58	5.40

Precious Metals					Date: 16/9 · 1995		
	Metal	USD/Oz	JO/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	
	Gold	385.05	7.50	Silver	5.49	0.100	
	2f hara						

Date: 16/9/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7160	0.7180
Sterling Pound	1.1090	1.1745
Deutsche Mark	0.4802	0.4826
Swin Franc	0.5923	0.5953
French Franc	0.1397	0.1404
Japanese Yen	0.6808	0.6902
Dutch Guilder	0.4291	0.4312
Swedish Kronn	****	*****
Italian Lira'	0.0444	0.0446
Belgian Franc ·		*****

Other Correncies	Dyte	Date: 16/9/1995		
Currency	Bid	Offer		
Sahraini Dinar	1.8830	1.8955		
Lebanese Lira	0.043685	0.044885		
Saudi Riyal	0.1904	0.1920		
Kuwaiti Cinar •	2.0950	£.3355		
(Jetari Riyal	0.1954	0.1967		
Egyptian Pound	0.3000	0.2180		
Omani Riya)	1.8505	1.8590		
Maria 3AU	0.1945	0.1953		
Circel Dractima	0.7855	0.3055		
Cyprict Pound	1.1995	1.5650		

#### **LONDON EXCHANGE RATES**

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Saturday.

-			
ne	U.\$.	dollar	1.3662/72 1.4872/82 1.6648/58 1.2050/60 30.57/61 5.1150/00 1607.6/8.6 103.33/43 7.1410/10 6.4820/70 5.7491/41

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs ltalian lire Japanese ven Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

One Sterling \$1,5518/28 One ounce of gold \$384.80/385.30

director of the PepsiCo service daily in 9,400 stores Restaurants-India, the local across 78 countries." Mr. Kohli said the Bangaarm of U.S.-based PepsiCo Inc., rejected the charges lore outlet, which opened in that KFC was using more of June, was the "cleanest" resthe popular food additive than specified by India's Pretaurant in India and was equipped with an airvention of Food Adulteration conditioned kitchen. "We are providing foreign "MSG is used as a flavourcapital, technology and ing agent in Europe, the Unhygiene. We are creating jobs ited States and other counand supporting two core industries - food processing tries and nobody has a prob-

and tourism," he said. "KFC has been wrongly vilified." Municipal authorities in Bangalore, capital of Karnataka state, said they would reconsider their stand if KFC "conformed to our stan-

mained "bullish" on India They also charged KFC plans to invest \$80 million with "misbranding" the pro-duct and not publishing a over the next seven years. statutory warning stating that the chickens were unfit for consumption by infants less "We have appealed against than a year old. the (Bangalore) order and

Several centrist and lefthave got a stay, "he said, "As wing politicians have of now we are in business. opposed the entry of KFC and other U.S. fast-food chains into India claiming still open (and) we are ex-"iunk food" was carcinogenic and would affect Indian diet-"They did not give us time ary habits.

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# JORDAN MARKET



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# Italy pays emotional farewell to Nordahl

on Saturday paid emotional tribute to Gunnar Nordahl, the Swedish attacker whose unrivalled goalscoring exploits with AC Milan thrilled the nation in the austere

"If I close my eyes, I still see him going for goal... we loved you Gunnar and you deserved our affection," said former prime minister and Milan owner Silvio Berlusco-

Nordahl, a league cham-pion with Milan in 1951 and 1955 and whose record of 210 goals for the elub still stands today, died on Friday of a beart attack while swimming in a hotel pool in Alghero, Sardinia. He was 73. Milan and Roma, with

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and dining rooms, kitchen and a

bathroom. Dr. Mahmoud Jum'a's

Tel: 624824, 819850

whom Nordahl played after leaving Milan, said they would pay their respects at a Serie A clash on Sunday with a minute's silence and black armbands.

"Soccer is in tears," said the Corriere Dello Sport. "He was the greatest attacking centre-forward in our his-

tory."
The Gazzetta Dello Sport devoted three pages to the attacker, who was the first Swede to play professionally abroad and was top scorer in Italy for five seasons, three of them consecutively. He was runner-up twice.

Only French ace Michel Platini has since managed to be top goalscorer three times

"Gunnar amazed the fans of the 1950s, filling pages of Milan history. His goals have become legendary," the Gazzetta said.

"There will be many people with damp eyes during the minute's silence." The paper reminded its readers of bow the Swede,

winner of a soccer gold medal at the 1948 Olympics, had arrived in a depressed postwar Italy trying to rebuild its

"They were days of reconstruction for an Italy that was knocked about by the war. People were seeing hope in life again and Gunnar became in some way a symbol,"

Nordahl, with compatriots

Gunnar Gren and Nils Liedholm made up the so-called Gre-No-Li attacking trio at Milan — a line-up that has been compared to Milan's Dutch threesome of Marco Van Basten, Ruud Gullit and "It was be who brought me Frank Rijkaard in the 1980s.

Liedholm was the stylist, Gren - nieknamed "il professore" and who died in 1991 - was the tactician, and Nordahl the honest strongman, forcing the ball into the

Liedholm, who later coached Milan and Roma, said Nordahl - nieknamed "bison" and "armoured car" for his strength and "il pompierone" (the big fireman) because that was his profession outside soccer - had

"I have just lost my sister and now my brother is dead too," he wrote on Saturday. "Gunnar was a brother to

to Italy. I didn't want to come ... but he convinced me. No player has ever been more of a hero in Italy than Gunnar," said Liedholm. "He liked Van Basten and

said he was the only man capable of beating his record Maybe he wasn't as good in the air as Van Basten but his strength was spectacular. He was the greatest goalscorer of all time.

Giampiero Boniperti, a rival with Juventus, said simply: "With him, part of my life bas gone."

#### Kankkunen leads Australian Rally

PERTH (AP) - Four-time winner Juba Kankkunen of Finland held a 16 second lead over defending champion Colin MeRae on Saturday after seven stages of Rally Australia, sixth round of the World Championship.

Kankkunen had an elapsed time of one hour, 24 seconds in his Toyota Celica and reported "everything is fine", while Scotsman MeRae had clocked 1:00.40 in his Subaru Impreza but suffered damage to the rear of the car.

Mitsubishi Lancer teammates Tommi Makinen of Finland (1:00.51) and Kenneth Eriksson of Sweden (1:00.54) were third and fourth with reigning world champion Didier Auriol of France fifth in his Toyota Celica at 1:10.01 and Carlos Sainz of Spain sixth in his Subaru at 1:01.27.

Kankkunen, a four-time world champion, has dominated previous Australian rallies. He has competed six times, winning on four occasions and twice finishing

A fifth victory on the rough gravel roads of Western Australia would put the 36-yearold in line for another world title to add to those he won in 1986, 87, 91 and 93. Auriol currently bas 51

points while Kankkunen and Sainz have 50 and McRae has

McRae has vowed to take a cautious approach in Austra-

"This is one rally where if you take risks you won't last too long," he said. "The stages are too difficult and there is no room for error." A record entry of more

than 94 cars started the fourday event late Friday. It features 30 special stages covering 504 kilometres. The drivers were to cover Il stages around perth on

Saturday before finishing the day back in the city. Two world ebampionship events remain after Rally Australia - Britain's RAC Rally and the Catalunya Rally in

What do you bid now?

A - Your heart support is most impressive, but your hand is not all that robust. Still it is worth some I7 points, and we think a raise to two hearts describes it adequately If partner can't bid again over this encouraging move, it is most unlikely you are missing game.

Q.3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold?

TLAS biovo 28801 SAAT

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

U.S. basketball star Magic Johnson jumps to Mike Mc Gee (right) look on during a show score as Tolga Tekinalp (left) and Charles game in Istanbul, Magic All Stars won the Shackleford (centre) of Ulker and All Stars' game 148-102 (Reuters photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold: The bidding with one spade. What

action do you take?

A - The trouble with a two-diamond overcall is that you might miss a good four-heart confract. Therefore, double. The trick-taking power of ?
What action do you take?
A - That depends on your methods. If the double is negative, slam is possible and you should announce your aspirations with a cue-bid of three-hearts. If the double is for penalties, a promising hand has turned to dust. We would pass despite the fact that we can't lead a trump— the hand has enough prime tards to compensate for that the hand is enough to toke that action and then correct a two-club 

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

prime cards to compensate for that flaw. Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you hold: •Q7 OKB5 OAQ1882 •QJ7 The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
10 10 10 Pess

7
What do you bid now?
A - The obvious choices are one no trump or two diamonds. We think it is more important to describe a ball anced hand with a stopper in the enemy suit than to show a live-card miner. minor, so our vote goes to one no

Q. 5 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold: WEST NORTH EAST :

I - Dbl Pass 1

Pass 2 D Pass 2

What action do you take?

A - Partner's bid is invitation

A - Partner's bid is invitational, showing a hand worth 16-18 points in support of hearts. Since you were on the borderline for a jump response of two hearts initially, the least you can do is accept by going straight to four hearts no

Q. 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South Q. 5 - Neptures Vol.
you hold
A73 0J9852 CAK64 A72
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
Page Page 10 54

What action do you take? A - East's preempt has put you on the spot. You can't lell whether you are cold for slam or whether you are overboard at five hearts. The solu-tion, based on the expectation of scoring two diamond tricks, is to take a 'sure' profit by doubling five diamonds. Don't expect to get rich, but you shouldn't get poorer'

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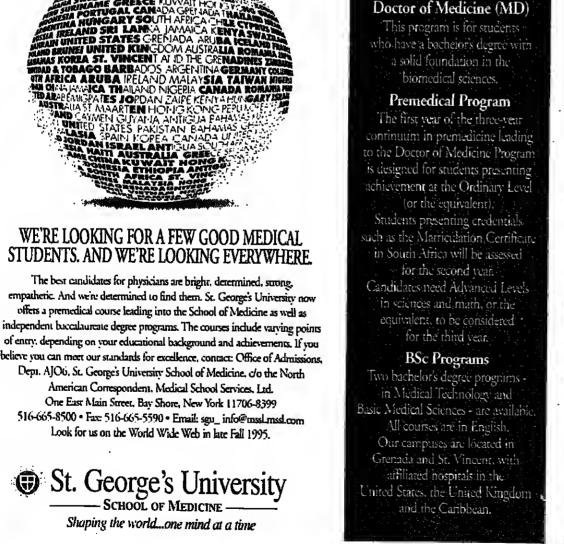
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the semifinal round, achieved

through a process of cup-

system elimioations, with two

more entering a league-style

playoff with the second team

from the Central American

Two teams from that play-

Central American nations.

play more games than

led by Honduras, feel they

are getting slighted by having

North Americans teams to

wait for the elimination of

other countries, getting great advantages," said Honduran

federation president Jorge

Abudoj at a meering this week of Central American

soccer officials in Tegucigal-

pa. "Among those advan-

tages we can cite: less ex-

penses derived from training

camp, no injuries, and no

accumulation of yellow cards.

World Cup since 1950 but

three, 1974, 1982 and 1990

(when it was banned). The

United States has played in the last two and Canada in

Honduras, Costa Rica and

El Salvador also have

reached the World Cup fin-

als, but only Costa Rica has

rankings. based on results

over the last six years. Cana-

da at No. 59 is the lowest

ranked of the North Amer-

icans, Mexico is 10th, the

American nations is Hon-

The highest of the Central

Blazer insists the proce-

dure was developed with the

intent on not only economics.

but qualifying the three best

In the latest FIFA monthly

ever won a game.

United States 19th.

duras at 71st.

Mexico has played in every

"Mexico, U.S. and Canada

get to the same stage.

off make up the last of the 10

three-nation group.

semifinalists.

#### Competition heats up in 2nd division basketball By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Yarmouk Saturday almost secured their place in the final round of the second division basketball championship with a crucial 92-61 win over Homentmen who were relegated last year.

Al Yarmouk had surprisingly lost 57-52 to newcomers Al Jeel after easily defeating Al Karak 70-48 to top the Group B standings for now. They will have to await Saturday's late match between Al Karak and Al Jeel and the replayed match of Homentmen and Al Jeel Sunday to secure

Al Jeel had scored a 77-42 win over Homentmen in the competition's opening match but the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) decided to replay the match after it turned out that a Yarmouk player had played on Al Jeel's lineup because of a technical mistake in registration by the

Meanwhile in Group A, Al Hussein and Gazzet Hashem topped the three-team group and advanced to the final round awaiting the Group B winners.

The top four teams will play a knockout final round the vioners of which will battle for the only slot allotted for promotion as the JBF is trying to reduce the number of teams in the country's top division.

Al Hussein and Homentmen who were relegated last year, in addition to Al Yarmouk are the top contenders for. promotion but Al Jeel have proved that they are a team to

he reckoned with.

However, Al Yarmouk seem to bave the edge as their eam has prepared well with most of their players on the Under-22 which had qualified with the country's top teams - Ahli, Ortbodoxi and Jazireh — to the Under-22 final round which was played recently.

The second round of the competition will start Monday and the competition concludes Sept. 20.

<b>STANDINGS</b>	
_	

		G	roup /	A		
	P	W	r.	SF	SA	Pts
* Hussein	2	2		177	126	4
* Gazzet Hashem	2	1	1	91	127	3
Ashrafieh .	· 2	_	2	137	152	2
		G	iroup E	3		
	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
Yarmouk	3	2	1	214	166	5
Homentmeo	2	1	1	126	153	3
Karak	2	_	2	109	135	2
rem are				57	52	

#### Fredericks not expected for 200 metres

for ac investigation," said

African Confederation of

Handball (ACH) secretary

general Zorrino Katsadi.

HARARE (Agencies) -Organizers delayed the men's 200-meter qualifiers in hopes of accommodating Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks, but his team said Saturday he still couldn't make it to Harare in time to add star appeal to the All Africa

Qualified to 2nd round

"There is no way that Fredericks will be here this afternoon," Namibian general team manager Frederick J. Briesley said. He said Sunday morning was the earliest the world record holder could reach Zimbabwe from Tokyo, where he had been planning to compete in a rival

Earlier in the week, organisers pushed the 200-metre heats from Saturday morning to Saturday evening. South Africanpole vaulter Okkert Brits also was in Tokyo, and the pole vault in Harare had been pushed from Saturday afternoon to Sunday morn-

Fredericks holds the world 200-metre record of 19.72. The All Africa Games record is more than a second slower at 20.77. Brits holds the world pole vault record of .6.14 metres (20.26 feet), only the third man in history to vault over 6 metres (19.g

The All Africa Games have been marred by the absence of several top stars in running, the continent's strength in international

Kenya said steeplechase lampion Moses Kiptanui needed a rest period in his current training for next year's Atlanta Olympics after competing in last month's World Athletics Championships in Sweden and the Grand Prix contest in Swtizerland, where he became the first man to run the 3,000 metre steeplechase in

under eight minutes.
Four other top Kenyan runners skipped Zimbabwe to train for this month's World Military Games in

Ethiopia's world 5.000 metre record holder Haile Gebreselassie pulled out the Harare meeting at the minute, also because problems with his training schedule. Ethiopiao officials said.

or English

i Manager

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r skills

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#### Sex test put on hold

Egyptian woman handball player Hanan Eid, suspected All Africa Game officials of really being a man, will not have to undergo a sex test—at least for the time being. Two days ago Eid was dered to take the test after officials became suspicious when she appeared in a

match against Nigeria.
"When we saw the player on the field we thought the player could be a male posing as a female hence the need

## **Central Americans** upset over World Cup qualifying procedure

NEW YORK (AP) — It's 1998 World Cup kicks off and already there is a complaint.

The seven nations that make up the Central American contingent of Concacaf are upset over the proposed qualifying procedure for France '98 that would have them play one more round than there North American counterparts: the United States, Mexico and Canada.

It's an issue the regional confederation has faced before, says Concacaf general secretary Chuck Blázer, but one that economics and geography dictates the past and current solution.

"We do the early part of elimination on a zonal basis." explained Blazer from Concacaf's New York headquarters. 'It existed before our administration. The economics and distance of travel need to be addressed. Because of some of the limitations of some countries resources, it would not take very long before countries would go broke trying to qualify.

With three teams to qualify this time under the expanded 32-narion format, Concacaf has had to change from last rime, when it had only one guaranteed berth besides the

Americans' as host. Essentially the problem is that Canada, Mexico and the United States are given byes until a two-group, 10-team league system semifinal round set for September to December 1996.

From that, three teams from each group advance to a final round of six, which after a league schedule qualifies

three teams. Central America's seven teams would start out being split into one three- and a four-team group, with two teams from the four-nation group and one from the three-country group advancing to the semifinal round.

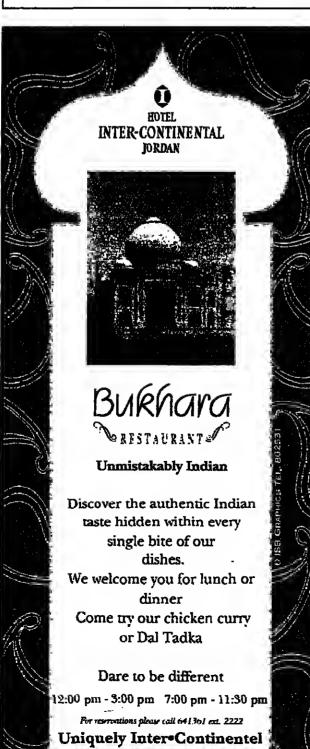
The Caribbean Zone gets two automatic qualifiers in



Richard McGrath - Marriott's Financial Controller

Richard McGrath has assumed his duties as a Financial Controller of the Amman Marriott Hotel effective July 1st, 1995.

Mr. McGrath has two major studies:-Food & Beverage management and Financial Accounting. He worked at Marriott London, Buenos Aires and Aruba until his transfer to the Amman Marriott Hotel.



#### Atlanta **Olympics** to be smoke-free

1996 Olympics will be smoke-free, including a ban oot only on smoking but on advertising of tobacco products, officials said Friday.

Smoking will be forbidden at all Olympic venues "and promotioo of tobacco products will be prohibited, including distribution of free samples, coupons and other promotional items," the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games said.

The policy, the committee said, is consistent with International Olympic Committee ideals of good bealth and a clean environ-

"Sponsorship of the Olympic Games by tobacco companies is prohibited, and ACOG will restrict the sale of tobacco products within all venues wheoever possible," it said.
Dr. John D. Cantwell,

ACOG's chief medical officer, described the ban as "collaborative effort among a broad crosssection of members of the medical and bealth-care

ACOG said it was working with the centres for disease cootrol and preventioo, the Georgia Public Health Department and other agencies to develop an information campaign to explain the no-smokiog policy to visitors, athletes and officials from partici-

pating countries. Although restrictions on moking in public places bave become commooplace in the United States, similar rules have met stiff opposition in some countries.

#### NBA team owners clear way for new season NEW YORK (AP) - The three-year contracts. Train- He said they will bring up ing camps will open as sche- their problems again when

National Basketball Association is back in business.

Club owners ensured six years of labour peace, voting 24-5 Friday to approve the collective bargaining agreement that players ratified earlier this week. The league's 2½-month lockout, which prevented offseason signings, will be lifted Monday.

"If you're going to have a lockout, probably the best nme to do it is the summertime," NBA Commissioner David Stern said. "But we have alerted the world we're not immune to the dangers of labour strife."

The salary cap will rise from \$15.9 million last season to \$23 million this season. and rookies will be limited to

duled on Oct. 6 and the season will start on time on

Russ Granik said almost all the teams will be over the cap when business resumes Monday because of free agents they don't intend to re-sign who srill are on their rosters. We think trading activity

owners expressed concern that they would have more difficulty competing under

Deputy Commissioner

is pent up and is going to explode, especially among the expansioo teams," Stern

Stern said small-market through the 2000-01 season.

the league revisits its revenue sharing formulas.

The overriding item is the level of the salary cap, whee it's being raised to and where it's likely to be raised beyond that." Stern said.

Player representatives voted 25-2 Wednesday to approve the deal, which was agreed to Aug. g. The union vote came one day after players voted 226-134 not to decertify the union, a move pushed for by Michael Jor-dan, Patrick Ewing and many agents. Rather than ratify the agreement, they thought they could get a better deal by proceeding with an antitrust

#### Rangers want to forget Romania

GLASGOW (AFP) - Rangers manager Walter Smith has told his men to forget Romania, scene of their midweek defeat to Steaua Bucharest, and get ready for

Rangers' 1-0 defeat in their opening Champions League game was an unexpected sethack. havine previously beaten the Romanians 4-0 in a friendly.

What's more, their Danish international Brian Laudrup suffered a thigh injury in the defeat and could well miss

the match at Brockville. "The most important thing for us right now is not to he distracted from our aims." said Smith, whose side also face Celtic in the Coca-Cola

Cup at Parkhead on Tuesday. European or Coca-Cola Cup matches must not deflect us from the prime objective,

We've started well with two wins and we want to keep that run going.

Russia striker Olee Salenko is in line for a recall. while David Rohertson can return after heing suspended in Romania.

Smith added: "Everyone was disappointed to lose the opening game of a Cham-pions League campaign hut you must try and not take that into consideration."

Rangers striker Mark Hateley was undergoing two operations on Friday. The 33-year-old requires surgery on cartilage and ankle problems and will he out for

around a month. Falkirk boss John Lamhie, who has goalkeeper Tony Parks back, treated the news that Laudrup will be out with typical bluntness: "They have got plenty of other bullets to

They are bound to he dangerous coming off a Europeun defeat hut everyhody outside Falkirk supporters expects us to get a hammering, so there is no pressure on

Partick manager Murdo Macteod has been trying to make a signing ahead of the game against in-form Hearts

Jim Jefferies' visitors have taken four points from their first two games after collecting only one out of a possible 12 in four opening games last

Raith and Kilmarnock. who are both pointless after two defeats, meet at Stark's

Celtic striker Pierre Van Hooydonk is unlikely to return after a hamstring injury against Motherwell at Park-head.

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2501 TO 2900	26/9/95
2901 TO 3400	27/9/95
3401 TO 3900	28/9/95
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DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Japan's Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama asked Syrian President Hafez Al Assad here Saturday to make fresh efforts to accelerate peace negotiations with Israel, saying time should not be lost.

Mr. Murayama also announced that Japan planned to grant Syria a 46.199 hillion ven (about \$462 million) soft loan to finance a thermal power plant, as well as aid to set up a power stations training centre (see

It would also organise a seminar for Syrian officials in October on the transition to market economy, the premier said.

Mr. Assad and Mr. Murayama, on the first visit bere by a Japanese head of government, met for more than two hours here to discuss the Middle East peace process and Syria's deadlocked talks with Israel as well as economic cooperation hetween Tokyo and Damascus. They continued their talks over lunch.

Mr. Murayama was to leave later Saturday for Israel where he said be will "urge the Israeli government to solve the issue on the hasis of a land-for-peace exchange" hased on U.N. resolutions, a Japanese spokesman said.

"The prime minister de-scribed Syria as a stable factor in the region and said he hoped Syria will continue to take a positive attitude in the Middle East peace process, spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto said.

"The Syrian-Israeli peace talks have entered a very important stage and time should not be lost," Mr. Murayama told Mr. Assad, according to Mr. Hashimoto.

He asked Mr. Assad to send a message to the Israeli people that Syria was making serious efforts to secure lasting peace, the Japanese spokesman said.

Mr. Assad reiterated his country's commitment to a comprehensive peace settlemeet and blamed Israel for setting obstacles along the path to a solution, his spokesman Jibran Kouriyeh said. Mr. Murayama is on a re-

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — the Palestine

(PLO) and Israel are close to

agreement on the disputed

issue of participation of East

Jerusalem Arabs in Palesti-

nian elections, a PLO official

PLO negotiator Saeh Ere-

kat, who heads the Palesti-

nian election committee,

said: "We are close to agree-

ment on where Palestinian

Dr. Erekat said interna-

nional observers, supervised

by the European Union.

would monitor the election

complicated issues, and now

we are trying to work out the

Israeli and Palestinian

negotiations have heen at

odds over whether East Jeru-

salem Palestinians would be

eligible to run for positions

details,

Reuters.

"This was one of the most

Dr. Erekat told

Jerusalemites will vote."

said on Saturday.

iheration Organisation

Jerusalemites to

vote at post offices

gional tour that bas takeo him to Saudi Arabia and Cairo. After Israel he visits Gaza and Jordan before returning home.

His visit here follows last montb's decision hy the Japanese government to send troops to join a U.N. peacekeeping force deployed on the Golan Heights.

The Japanese contingent, expected to number about 50, would be the first of its kind in the Middle East. It was expected to arrive in Fehruary for a two-year tour of duty.

Japan, slowly shaking off foreign policy inbihitions ng from its role in World War II, has been seeking a bigger part in the Middle East to match its huge commercial involvement in a region that provides most of its vital oil imports.

The Syrian government newspaper Tishrin said: "It is time for Japan to play a key role in the region, equal to the economic clout and importance it has in the world."

Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi, Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa and the deputy premier for economic affairs, Selim Yassin, took part in the talks at

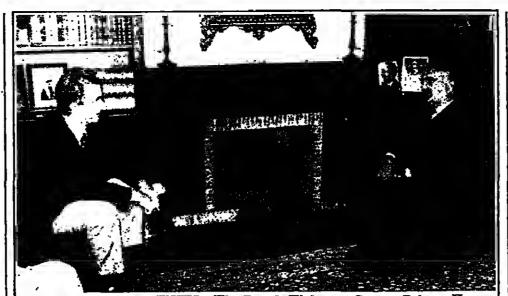
the presidential palace. Mr. Murayama is the third Japanese premier to visit the Middle East since 1978 and the first to come to Damascus since the two countries set up diplomatic ties in 1953.

Japan already plays an active role in the multilateral track of the Middle East peace process that deal with issues such as economic cooperation and water-sharing.

In an interview with Tishrin published on Saturday, Mr. Murayama said Japan was looking for direct investments in Syria.

Japan is Syria's largest aid provider, with total loan essistance until 1993 of 110 billion yen (around \$1 hillion) while grants and technical cooperatioo amount to three hillioo yeo (\$29 million) and 5.7 billion yen (\$55 mil-

lioo) respectively. Tokyo has been involved in three major projects in Syria: an irrigation project in Mashkana, the Baniyas power station expansion and the Jandar power station project.



BELGIAN PRINCE VISITS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday receives Crown Prince Felipe of Belgium. Discussions during the meeting dealt with means to enhance Jordanian-Belgium relations. His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and Belgian Amhassador Gnido Courtois attended the meeting. Crown Prince Felipe is on a private visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

## Political parties are a must in Jordan, 3 leaders affirm

AMMAN (J.T.) — Leaders September 1992, the country of three political parties have was facing difficult economic said political parties in Jorvital instrument for democracy, countering rumours that the Jordanian people were fed up with political parties'

At a seminar hosted by the International and Islamic Centre for Studies and Information to mark three years since the legalisation of political parties, Jordan Communist Party Secretary Geoeral Yacouh Zayadeen said it was untrue that the Jordanian people do not want political parties.

Dr. Zayadeen said parties started to operate in Jordan before the 1930s. He said in the 1940s and 1950s large numbers of young Jordanians joined political parties and sacrificed their youth in defending democracy and the freedom of expression.

When political parties were legalised by the enactment of conditions and was trying to tackle the problems of unemployment and poverty, said Dr. Zayadeen. This, in addition to external factors such as the collapse of the socialist hloc and the birth of the new world order, made the task of political parties even more

difficult, he added. He said the large number of political parties in Jordan demonstrates the people's desire to serve their country. noting that it was the government which was rejecting licensing political parties before the start of the democra-

tisation process. Dr. Zayadeen described political parties as schools teaching people politics, eco-nomics and public work and to respect others' views.

"We want out society to become civilised, in that our people join parties, popular institutions and unions, because this will give value to the Political Parties Law in life," said the veteran com-

Jordan National Alliance Party Secretary General Mi-jhem Al Khreisha, who also

munist leader.

spoke at the seminar, outlined developments in the Jordanian, regional and international arenas since the legislation of political parties and the effects of these developments on the Jordanian democratisation process.

Mr. Khreisha said Jordanian citizens grew up with the impression that political parties were instruments for sabotage. Such an idea was now in need for update, he'

All government and nongovernmental deparments and mass media organisations shoulder the responsibility of educating the people of the role of political parties.

Mr. Khreisha voiced concern over the future of democratisation process, saying it might be threatened by rapprochement in ties with some Arah countries.

(Continued on page 7)

## Court sentences Filipina to death in UAE murder retrial

Saturday condemned a teenage Filipina maid to death for murder in a shock retrial verdict that rejected her claim she was raped.

of life in the West Bank and Sixteen-year-old Sarah Gaza Strip. Balabagan, her bead covered There were also disputes in a black veil, began crying over whether Palestinians in after the tbree-judge panel Jerusalem would vote inside imposed the death penalty for stabbing her Gulf Arah the city or in the West Bank. No Israeli officials were employer Almas Mohammad available for comment. Al Baloushi 34 times.

The contentious issue of "This court charges the de-Jerusalem has been put off fendant with premeditated until negotiations on the final murder and sentences her to status of the Palestinian terrideath," said Chief Judge tories scheduled to start in Ahmad Al Tatwani. May 1996.

Ms. Balahagan, who was Nzo defies Israel 15 at the time of the killing, South African Foreign was originally convicted of Minister Alfred Nzo visited manslaughter in June and the PLO's unofficial headjailed for seven years. But quarters in East Jerusalem on the court at the same time Saturday despite opposition also concluded that Baloushi from Israel.

had raped her and awarded Mr. Nzo turned up at the her financial compensation. beadquarters, the Orient Contradictory medical evi-House, ahead of the scheduled time of his meeting with senior Palestinian official dence in the retrial, however. cast doubt on Ms. Balahagan's claim that she had been Faisal Husseini, an AFP correspondent said. raped, and the court concluded that in any case the

"I came to express my support for the Palestinian people," Mr. Nzo said, according

AL 'AIN (Agencies) - An the incident (the killing)." Islamic court in the United :Judge Tatwani told reporters Arab Emirates (UAE) on after pronouncing the death sentence.

> court could not be positive that Baloushi had made a sexual advance. "One of the doctors said there was a tear to the hymen

But he also added that the

hut the court concluded she is still a virgin. A laboratory concluded there was no sperm," he added. Mr. Tatwani, asked about

marks on the maid's body, said: "These marks are from fingernails. This is natural. the man was fighting death." The dead man's age was

not established in court. His son said he was 85 hut Ms. Balabagan said he was in his early 60s. Executions in the UAE are

usually hy firing squad.
"It's unfair. I only defended myself, the girl wept after the verdict was announced. She had expected to be acquitted.

In Manila, the government expressed shock at the verdict and President Fidel Ramos ordered diplomats to file an appeal immediately. while a support group for overseas workers said it

Ms. Balabagan's lawyer, Mohammad Al Amin, saidan appeal would be launched within three days.

At a first trial, whose verdict was annulled at the order of President Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, the same court ruled she bad been raped but condemned the girl to seven years in jail.

Baloushi's family and the prosecution had demanded the death sentence, denying Ms. Balahagan was raped and contending she was guilty of premeditated murder. The Philippine emhassy

has been paying for Ms. Balahagan's legal costs. Manila has been watching-

the case closely while stepping up efforts to defend its expatriate workers since another maid, Flor Contemplacion, was executed in March in Singapore for a double murder.

Mr. Ramos appealed to Sheikh Zayed for Ms. Balahagan's pardon or clemency.

Mr. Amin and Philippine Amhassador Roy Seneres have repeatedly asked for Ms. Balahagan to be acquitted, saying she was acting in, self-defence when she killed Baloushi with the knife he

# Egypt has 'proof' linking Sudan to Mubarak attack

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has a proof that Khartoum helped militants infiltrate from Sudan to Ethiopia for a failed attempt to kill President Hosoi Muharak in Addis Ahaba in June, a newspaper reported Satur-

"Sudanese security forces facilitated the entry and exit of the terrorists through Khartoum airport and gave them official letters to make their mission easier with the airport and airlines," the daily Al Ahram said.

Egypt had official documents "bearing the names of the terrorist elements and easing their entry to Khartoum airport from Pakistan and their taking off on a Sudanese plane to Addis Ahaha a short time before

the attack" on Mr. Muharak. The documents included proof that "they left without finishing the required proce-dures for travellers," including a "letter to the head of passport control at Khartoum airport marked top secret, the paper said.

The documents also show letters booking two seats on an official Sudanese carrier out of Addis Ahaba "only hours after the attack, giving names of two of those ac cused (in the attack), Hussein Ahmad Shemil and Sherif Abdul Rahman.

Sbemil, also known as Serag, took the return flight, while Abdul Rahman was wounded during the amhush on Mr. Muharak's motorcade and later shot dead by Ethio-

pian police, the paper said. Shemil has a Sudanese passport and citizenship and carried a false Ethiopian passport on the flight to Addis ababa, Al Ahram said,

The documents were uncovered during Ethiopia's investigation into the assassination attempt, the paper said. Ann Egyptian Foreign

Ministry official told AFP oo Friday that Egypt and Ethiopia were "examining retaliatory measures against the Sudanese regime after the discovery of evidence linking it" to the attack.

Khartoum has denied any link to the plot to kill Mr. Mubarak. It says it is searching for three of the wouldbe assassins who fled to Sndan after the attack, according to Ethiopia, but insists only one of them ever entered its territory. Khartoum wants dialogue

Sudan called Saturday for dialogue with students wh o. ecuted three students after led a wave of demonstrations separating them from the in Khartoum and said it. others.

would release some of those arrested during the protests. "Security aothorities have ligthened control over the

sources of recent demonstrations and arrangements will be started for the release of the detainees," the daily Akhbar Al Youm reported An unidentified official told the daily that ther government "intends to pursue its goal of achieving political detente to provide the oppor-tunity for all political forces to work together."

Two prominent leftist lawyers arrested during the unrest, Mustafa Abdul Qader and Mohammad Ali Al Sayed, would soon be released, the paper said.

Security forces rounded up almost 500 people following the anti-government protests which began on Monday and left at least three people dead. The demonstrations were the largest since President Omar Al Bashir took power in 1989.

An Akhhar Al Youm editorial urged Sudan's leaders to "bear in mind Bashir's call to listen to the other viewpoint.

We should not just say the students were agitated by remnants of the (hanned) Communist Party or leftist forces. We should learn the motives that made them respond to the agitation and handle the matter wisely."

Khartoum accused Ethiopia and Eritrea, along with local leftists, of stirring up the disturbances.

The paper noted that stern warnings from the Interior Ministry succeeded in ending the trouble after vowing to act "resolutely and decisivetowards any new demonstrations

Anti-riot police remained in Khartoum on Saturday, posted at the corners of the main streets, witnesses in the capital said.

Amnesty International ex-pressed "deep concern" Friday for the safety of those under detention.

In a statement issued in Londoo, Amnesty said: "We are deeply concerned that some of the prisoners have been tortured following reports of severe beatings by security officials... Some of those arrested are prisoners of conscience and should be released immediately."

ports that security forces who went into the engineering faculty had summarily ex-

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

SHANNON (AFP) - A Royal Jordanian (RJ) Airlines jet

which landed here after a bomh scare was given permission

to continue its journey Saturday after an army search

revealed nothing, airport officials said. The plane flew from

this western Irish airport on to New York's Kennedy

Airport later Saturday. The 267 passengers and crew on board the Lockheed I0-II flying from Amsterdam were

evacuated while the Irish army's bomb disposal unit carried

out the search. The plane made an emergency landing here

Friday after a phone call was made to police in Amsterdam

saying that a bomh had been placed on board a Royal

Jordanian airlines plane in the city's Schipol airport. Of the

three Jordanian planes which had departed from Schipol

since the bomh alert, only the New York flight was still en

route. The other two planes had landed safely in Amman.

U.N. disarmament official to visit Iraq

RJ jet given all clear after scare

#### Lost Monteverdi opera makes

triumphant return

LONDON (R) — A Mon-

teverdi opera commissioned

for a royal wedding and lost

for 300 years made a triumphant return after being "recomposed" from a surviving fragment. Opera fans at Londoo's famed .Covent Garden cheered Friday night at the finale of "Arianoa: lost opera hy Clandio Monteverdi. composed again by Alexander Goehr suggestiog the 140-year-old opera bouse had landed itself a hit. Pink-winged angels descended on chairs from the sky, the beroine was winched from the sea through a neoo-rimmed hole in the stage and gods dropped from the heavens in boxes. The 16 musicians and conductor Ivor Bolton performed mid-stage with the singers and the deep hlue set was Spartan, as it would have been in Monteverdi's time. But with extra bars still being written last week, the opera could oot be more contemporary - and the fans loved it. "It was absolutely wonderful, it showed the big positive emotions, oot just despair and depressioo," Richard Crockett, whose орега favourite Beethoven's Fidelio. came for Goehr," said Peter Kinnison, a Tchaikovsky, Berlioz and Straviosky, "It was supposed to be Monteverdi and it did actually work beautifully." Originally commissioned in Italy in 1608, the opera tells the myth of Ariadne (Arianna), abandoned on the island of Naxos by Theseus, career-conscious prince of Athens, and her rescue by the Greek god Baccbus. Written to celebrate the marriage of Prince Francesco to Margherita of Savoy, the score vanished 10 years later wheo the Italian city of Mantua was sacked by imperial troops. Only Ottavio Rinuccial's libretto and a fragmeot of the score, Arianna's famous lament, bave survived.

#### Liz Taylor in the hospital for

irregular heartbeat LOS ANGELES (R) -Actress Elizabeth Taylor, wbose career has been puoctuated by a series of health problems, has been admitted to a California bospital suffering from an irregular heartbeat, her doctor said Friday. "She is there for evaluation and is doing fine," Dr. Charles Freedman said in a statement. He said Ms. Taylor, 63, was taken to St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica Thursday afternoon "for an irregularity of her heart rhythm," a spokeswoman for the hospital west of Los Angeles said there was no word on when the two-time Academy Award winning actress will be released. Bruce Hensel, medical adviser for Los Angeles TV station KNBC, said Ms. Taylor's doctor told him "she was resting comfortably and was in noimmediate danger." "If all. goes well, he plans to just keep her in the bospital for 3 couple of days and send her bome," Mr. Hensel said Last June Ms. Taylor under-

#### New law to wear French drivers off liquid lunches

went right hip replacement

surgery, just 15 mooths after

a similar operation on the

left hip.

PARIS (AP) — Drinking and driving, as French as Burgundy with brie, was targeted hy a tough new law that makes many people legally drunk after more than two glasses of wine. Only two? Sacre Bleu 529 some French intent on maintaining their beloved "bon vivant" lifestyle. Some eveo say they'll stay a step ahead of police by keeping a breath analyser of their own in the glovebox. "Working your way through a good bottle of wine is one of life's great pleasures," said Dominique Levalle of Versailles, sipping Chablis at a

#### "There is no linkage heon the Palestinian council would mount street protests. to PLO officials. tween the sexual advance and which would run most aspects Brotherhood activists go on trial in Egypt

killing was not connected.

HEIKSTEP (Agencies) — Egypt's military court opened trial of 49 leading members of Muslim Brotherhood, the country's largest and most influential fundamentalist group, on Salurday on charges of forming illegal group, plotting against the state and violating constitutional laws.

The defendants were hrought in three blue military irucks to the desert army camp of Heikstep, north of Cairo. About 14 police jeeps and two armoured personnel carriers escorted them.

The 49 — lawyers, former members of parliament, university professors, religious scholars, doctors and engineeres — peered out through the nny harred windows of the trucks and waved the V-victory to the few foreign journalists outside. Peace he upon you."

some shouted faintly. Foreign journalists and television crew were hanned from attending the hearings to prevent them interviewing earlier elections, prompting

The men who often show signs of torture hy police trying to extract confessions. Only the government-controlled press was allowed.

This is the first mass trial of Brotherhood members since 1965 and confirms the government's determination 10 clamp down on the organisation which was founded in

Members of Brotherhood cannot stand for election in the name of the organisation but in previous elections they have stood under the umhrella of recognised parties, with other Brotherhood members helping to organise their cam-

paigns.
"The government is targeting them because it fears their rising and wide popularity... it is afraid they will win the forthcoming elections." lawyer Abdul Halim Rama-

dan said. The Muslim Brotherhood has won control of the lawyers, doctors, teachers and engineers syndicates in

the government to introduce a law in 1993 which made it much harder for them to take over syndicate leadership. After years of turning a hlind eye to their activities. the government has in the past year tried to equate the

Brotherhood with the violent militants trying to overthrow the state. The Brotherhood, which believes in establishing a. strict Islamic state through political means, denied any link to the more militant Al

Gamaa Al Islamiyah seeking

10 topple the state through violent means. Earlier this year President Hosni Muharak, accused the Brotherhood of providing support for militant armed groups. He called them "terrorists" and detained ahout

150 members. The Brotherhood was locked in a violent confrontation with Abdul Nasser hut they enjoyed good relations with Egypt's Anwar Sadat who freed their jailed leaders in

The Brotherhood has disavowed violence in trying to bring about Islamic rule and claims tens of thousands of memhers in Egypt. The Brotherhood has charged that the crackdown is a government attempt to curh its power hefore parliamentary elections in November.

The men. who said little during the proceedings, stood behind a cage of bars and wire mesh set up inside the corwded courtroom. At one point, two women in veils walked over 10 the cage and passed hiscuits to their relarives behind the bars.

Journalists were searched as they entered the court and soldiers stood near family members and lawyers inside. "All of these charges are

completely false, whatever we did was constitutional and legal." Assam Al Iryan, one of the defendants, told a reporter. "The real reason (for the arrests) is the government's fear of our popularity in the voting districts."

Mr. Iryan carried a copy of scholarship in Cairo.

the Egyptian constitution, citing provisions that ensure the right to meet peacefully and to freely participate in elections. Despite the trial. he said he still plans to run for parliament as an independent candidate.

The government has accused the men of supporting an illegal group and trying to run in an election as a religious party. which is forbidden hy law. They face up to seven years in prison.

Human rights advocates have said a fair trial is impossible before military courts, which do not allow appeals and have handed down stiff sentences. Some defenandsts scoffed at the proceedings.
"Had this case taken the

regular procedure they would not have proven anything. That's why they took the case to the military court." said Sayyid Ahdul Maqsood Askar, 62, another defendant who works at Al Azhar, a leading centre of Muslim

#### BAGHDAD (AFP) — The deputy head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq is to visit Baghdad on Sunday to follow up on new revelations about its banned weapons programmes, a U.N. official here said. Charles Dnelfer will meet Oil Minister Amer Rashed, who is in charge of negotiations with UNSCOM. Iraq handed over new information on its arms programmes after the August 8 defection 10 Jordan of former Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan, whom Baghdad accused of concealing the data. UNSCOM ehief Rolf Ekeus said the Iraqi government admitted to a far larger and more advance germ warfare programme than was previously thought existed.

#### Japan to give \$14 m in grant to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Japanese government will offer Jordan three grants worth \$14 million, according to sources at the Ministry of Planning. The sources said the grants will be used for increasing food production, controlling environmental pollution and purchasing education material. The Jordanian and Japanese governments will sign agreements on the contracts on Sunday at the Ministry of Planning. The agreements will be signed by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Japanese Ambassador Takayuki

#### Jordan, Philippines sign aviation accord

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Philippines on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in civil aviation and air transport, capping two days of talks between officials from the two countries at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The memo allows Royal Jordanian and the Philippines national airlines to operate two weekly flights between the two countries.